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metronews

Celebrity Pg 26

Beckham staffers busted for theft

Tories clean up in province

ELECTION The Conservatives nearly swept British Columbia last night, upsetting a handful of incumbent Liberals who were expected to have strongholds in their ridings.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and Prime Minister Stephen Harper campaigned here right up to the last day, but in the end the Tories won 22 and the Liberals only four of the province's 36 ridings.

In Vancouver, the fight was predominantly between the Liberals and the NDP, while the Tories dominated the rest of the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and the Interior.

Incumbent Liberal cabinet minister Ujjal Dosanjh was expected to be the surefire winner for Vancouver South, but he barely beat Conservative Wai Young.

Liberal MPs Raymond Chan and Don Bell, from Richmond and North Vancouver respectively, lost to Conservatives Alice Wong and Andrew Saxton.

Conservatives Dona Cadman and John Duncan took Surrey North and Vancouver Island North from incumbent NDPs Rachid Arab and Catherine Bell.

KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

7,889 of 8,549 polls

- Tories, 44.9 %
- NDP, 25.8 %
- Liberals, 19.3 %
- Greens, 9.3 %

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Mightier minority

TODD KOROL/REUTERS

Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister Stephen Harper gestures after speaking to supporters at his election night headquarters yesterday in Calgary. Harper won reelection yesterday with a significantly stronger minority government.

Election 2008

Prime Minister Stephen Harper declared victory last night as his Conservatives strengthened their grasp on power, and promised to work with opposition parties to bolster an economy battered by global turmoil.

Canadians gave Harper a new mandate, but he faces his second consecutive minority government. In a speech to supporters at his campaign headquarters in Calgary, he promised to work with opposition parties to tackle the economic crisis.

"Canadians have voted and rendered their verdict and charted the way forward for our country," Harper told several hundred party faithful.

"We stretch out a hand to members of all parties, asking them to join together to protect the economy and weather this world financial crisis."

Harper called the election five weeks ago, saying he wanted a stronger mandate in the face of what he termed a "dysfunctional parliament," but the campaign was hijacked by the growing economic turmoil stemming from the U.S. credit market crisis.

The night proved a bitter disappointment for Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion, 53, who failed to sell voters on his leadership or his controversial carbon tax and now faces an almost certain challenge to his leadership.

Dion told supporters late yesterday that he will co-operate with the government in dealing with the economy. "We Liberals will do our part responsibly to make sure this Parliament works," he said.

"I assured (Harper) that my top priority will be the economy."

NDP Leader Jack Layton, 58, improved his party's standings, winning seats in B.C., Newfoundland and Northern Ontario. Layton campaigned to be prime minister, but in reality aspired to replace the Liberals as official Opposition. He lost on both counts, but yesterday's results give the NDP a stronger voice in Parliament.

Green Leader Elizabeth May, 54, fell short as well last night, losing to her Conservative rival Peter MacKay in the Nova Scotia riding of Central Nova.

The Greens failed to elect any of their candidates.

REUTERS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 3-8

Seat count

• Conservative	143
• Liberal	77
• Bloc Québécois	49
• NDP	37

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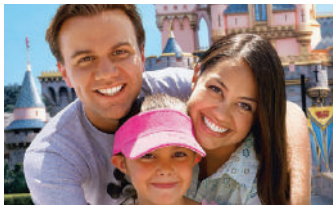

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Bloggers leak early election results
B.C. voters with an Internet connection or satellite TV were able to see election results from Eastern Canada three hours early after people posted them on Facebook and on various blogs. It's illegal in Canada to report election results before all polls close. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Local

Voters locked out

The Beatty Street Drill Hall polling station opened 45 minutes late this morning because staff forgot to bring the key to open the door. Donna Celle, a spokesperson with Elections Canada, apologized to voters.
CBC NEWS ONLINE

NDP takes over from Emerson

KINGSWAY NDP candidate Don Davies took the Vancouver Kingsway riding last night, replacing Liberal-turned Conservative David Emerson.

Don Davies

In the run-up to the election, the 45-year-old lawyer called for heightened security at SkyTrain stations, increased federal transit funding and promoted a more comprehensive child-care benefit platform under the NDP banner.

"It's a collective victory," he told the jubilant crowd at Heritage Hall in Vancouver. "Hundreds of people worked on our campaign in Vancouver Kingsway."

Davies won 35.1 per cent of the vote; Wendy Yuan, Liberal, 29 per cent; Salomon Rayek, Conservative, 27.7 per cent; and Doug Warkentin, Green, 6.6 per cent.

MARIA COOTAUCO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Dosanjh ekes out a victory

Raps NDP for Tory rule

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Former New Democrat premier Ujjal Dosanjh blamed the NDP for siphoning off Liberal votes as he eked out a victory in Vancouver South last night.

At press time, Dosanjh, 61, had received 14,968 votes, about three per cent more than his next closest rival, Tory candidate Wai Young who finished with 13,938 votes. Dosanjh had trailed Young for much of the night.

"I didn't expect (it to be so close)," said Dosanjh, at a fairly quiet Liberal celebration party at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver last night. "Things can happen, so I wasn't shocked."

Dosanjh said Prime Minister Stephen Harper was successful in "demonizing" Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and his proposed Green Shift, but saved his most scathing remarks for Jack Layton and the NDP.

"If you want to give 10 more seats to Mr. Layton, you'll get a right-wing government … New Democrats have to decide whether there is any use for the federal NDP in this country today if it's going to mean a right-wing government led by Stephen Harper."

New Democrat candidate Ann Chambers was third with 6,395 votes and Green candidate Csaba Gulyas was fourth with 1,991 votes.

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER
Ujjal Dosanjh at the post-election Liberal headquarters at the Sheraton Wall Centre last night.

Record

- Dosanjh has held the riding since 2004 and was minister of health in Paul Martin's minority government.
- He was re-elected in 2006 and served as the critic for national defence, foreign affairs and public safety.

Incumbent Chan unseated by Tory

RICHMOND Conservative candidate Alice Wong unseated Liberal incumbent Raymond Chan in Richmond last night.

It was a tight race — as expected — with Wong winning by about 18 per cent of the vote.

Conservative Stephen Harper and Liberal Stephane Dion visited the riding on Monday to try to boost support.

METRO VANCOUVER

Results

- Alice Wong, Tory, 49.5%
- Raymond Chan, Liberal, 31.1%
- Dale Jackaman, NDP, 11.9%
- Michael Anthony Wolfe, Green, 6.4%

177/207 polls

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NDP deny making calls

Residents in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding reported receiving recorded phone messages urging them to vote for NDP candidate Julian West, who dropped out of the race after admitting to taking off his clothes in front of minors at an environmental conference 12 years ago. The NDP reported the incident to police. METRO VANCOUVER

List of winners in B.C. ridings

Abbotsford
63.1% — Ed Fast (Tory)
BC Southern Interior
47.5% — Alex Atamanenko (NDP)
Burnaby
37.7% — Bill Siksay (NDP)
Burnaby-New Westminster
46.1% — Peter Julian (NDP)
Cariboo-Prince George
54.9% — Dick Harris (Tory)
Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon
62.5% — Chuck Strahl (Tory)
Delta-Richmond East
55.9% — John Cummings (Tory)
Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca
34.1% — Keith Martin(Liberal)
Fleetwood-Port Kells
44.1% — Nina Grewal (Tory)
Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo
44.8% — Cathy McLeod (Tory)
Kelowna-Lake Country
56% — Ron Cannan (Tory)
Kootenay-Columbia
59.6% — Jim Abbott (Tory)
Langley
61.4% — Mark Warawa (Tory)
Nanaimo-Alberni
46.5% — James Lunney (Tory)
Nanaimo-Cowichan
45.2% — Jean Crowder (NDP)
New Westminister-Coquitlam
41.8% — Dawn Black (NDP)
Newton-North Delta
35.9% — Sukh Dhaliwal (Liberal)
North Vancouver
42.5% — Andrew Saxton (Tory)
Okanagan-Coquihalla
58.1% — Stockwell Day (Tory)
Okanagan-Suswap
51.7% — Colin Mayes (Tory)
Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge-Mission
51.7% — Randy Kamp (Tory)
Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam
54.7% — James Moore (Tory)
Prince George-Peace River
63.4% — Jay Hill (Tory)
Richmond
49.4% — Alice Wong (Tory)
Skeena-Bulkley Valley
51.3% —Nathan Cullen (NDP)
South Surrey-White-Rock-Cloverdale
58% — Russ Hiebert (Tory)
Surrey North
39.8% —Dona Cadman (Tory)
Vancouver Centre
33.8% — Hedy Fry (Liberal)
Vancouver East
54.3% — Libby Davie (NDP)
Vancouver Island North
45.7% — John Duncan (Tory)
Vancouver Kingsway
35.2% — Don Davies (NDP)
Vancouver Quadra
45.8% — Joyce Murray (Liberal)
Vancouver South
39.9% — Ujjal Dosanjh (Liberal)
Victoria
44.1% — Denise Savoie (NDP)
West Vancouver-SunshineCoast-Sea to Sky Country
46% — John Weston (Tory)
*All results as of press time. Check out metronews.ca for full results.

Fry takes Van Centre

ROB ANNANDALE
for Metro Vancouver

Hedy Fry held off some high-profile challengers to win Vancouver Centre for a sixth straight time and, despite all the pre-election hype, it wasn't even close.

She was leading her nearest rival, Conservative Lorne Mayencourt, by nearly 4,000 votes with about two-thirds of the ballots counted, but dismissed suggestions that winning elections had become old hat.

"I don't think any MP should take anything for granted," a beaming Fry told reporters. "You have to fight every election like it's your first one."

Fry was first elected in 1993 when she defeated then Prime Minister Kim Campbell and has won easily in every subsequent election.

But she faced an especially tough challenge this time from two-term Vancouver-Burrard MLA Lorne Mayencourt, University of B.C. professor Michael Byers and Green deputy leader Adriane Carr.

Despite the loss, Mayencourt was upbeat about his future and his party.

"This is a wonderful night for the Conservative Party of Canada," he said from his campaign headquarters while congratulating Fry.

Fry refused to blame her party's much-maligned leader for the poor Liberal showing nationwide.

"I think that the Green party has been the spoiler, which is exactly what Mrs. May was saying all along, that she never wanted to be the Ralph Nader of Canadian politics," Fry said. "But she turned out to be exactly that."

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Hedy Fry celebrates at the Majestic on Davie Street last night as she maintains her grip on Liberal stronghold Vancouver Centre.

Davies heads to Ottawa for fifth term

VAN EAST The mood was celebratory at the Waldorf Hotel last night as Libby Davies was elected into her fifth term as the Member of Parliament for Vancouver East.

"I am very, very proud to represent this riding of Vancouver East," said the veteran NDPer at her victory party last night. "This is the place where people take on enormous struggles … and I can't think of a better riding that I would ever want to represent."

Dozens of people were in attendance, cheering as the multiple television screens announced Davies the winner in a landslide victory over conservative candidate Ryan Warawa and Liberal candidate Ken Low.

"Libby is so popular because she's very compassionate," said supporter Louise Halama. "She's very caring toward all people."

She was first elected MP for Vancouver East in 1997 and was re-elected in 2000, 2004 and 2006. She was also elected to Vancouver City Council in 1982, where she served five consecutive terms.

ANDREA WOO
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

ANDREA WOO FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Libby Davies celebrates with family after her re-election.

Greens lose only sitting member

OUSTED The Green Party lost its only MP last night when Blair Wilson was crushed by the Conservative candidate.

He beat Tory John Weston by a hair in 2006, but last night the tables turned in Weston's favour when he won the West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea To Sky riding with 46 per cent of the votes.

Wilson came in a distant third, at 15.5 per cent, behind the Liberal candidate Ian Sutherland.

Wilson said last night he knew it was going to be a tough fight and that he still plans on staying with the Greens.

He was elected as a Liberal but joined the Greens in August, giving it its first seat in the House of Commons.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/
METRO VANCOUVER

Quadra replays byelection

VAN QUADRA In a result mirroring this spring's byelection, Liberal MP Joyce Murray again beat Tory Deborah Meredith to win Vancouver Quadra.

But while the byelection was a squeaker — Murray captured the traditional Liberal stronghold by a scant 151 votes — last night she finished a comfortable nine per cent ahead of her Conservative opponent.

votes
- Joyce Murray won with 45.8 per cent of the vote.

At press time last night, Murray had 23,574 votes to Meredith's 18,837.

Green party candidate Dan Grice finished third with 4,592 votes and New Democrat David Caplan was fourth with 4,197.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

SURREY NORTH Conservative Dona Cadman will continue her husband's political legacy after a narrow win last night over the NDP. The NDP's Penny Priddy had won the Surrey North seat in 2006 after the death of Independent Chuck Cadman. The late Cadman was elected a member of the Reform party in 1997, but won a seat as an Independent in 2004 after losing the Conservative party nomination.

MONICA MARTINEZ/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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Vancity

Removed tree house to be auctioned for charity
A pirate ship tree house ordered removed by the City of Vancouver from the front yard of a Kerrisdale home will be auctioned off tomorrow. Money from the sale will go to the Boys And Girls Clubs of Greater Vancouver. METRO VANCOUVER

Taser case deadline looms

A deadline on whether charges will be laid against the four RCMP officers involved in the Taser incident that led to the death of Robert Dziekanski will lapse this week.

Dziekanski, 40, died one year ago on Oct. 14, 2007, after he was Tasered by RCMP officers responding to a call at the Vancouver International Airport.

An inquiry into his death was supposed to start next Monday but has now been postponed until next month. The delay was needed because the RCMP made clear it did not intend to have officers testify at the inquiry.

Crown counsel said a decision will be made by the second week of October on whether charges will be laid.

The inquiry will now start Nov. 12 and is the second phase of the public inquiry that was announced last year after the provincial government came under intense public pressure to order one.

The first part of the inquiry heard from dozens of people testifying about the general use of the 50,000-vote weapon. But this second part will focus on the events leading up to Dziekanski's death.

A memorial service will be held this weekend in Kamloops, where Dziekanski's mother, Zofia Cisowski, lives. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family of murder victim upset with plea deal

COURTS The family of a murdered escort said yesterday it's angry the Crown is going ahead with a plea deal for her accused killer.

Tammy Murray was stabbed 60 times in her Burnaby apartment.

Her sister, Tanya, said Tammy's accused killer, Aaron Hickey should be charged with second-degree murder and is asking the B.C. Supreme Court to halt a deal that would let him plead guilty to manslaughter, news1130.com reports.

Hickey, 20, entered that plea in court yesterday. METRO VANCOUVER

Charges upgraded in alleged gay attack

LEGAL A man charged with attacking a gay man on Davie Street appeared in court yesterday on upgraded charges of aggravated assault.

Michael Kandola, 20, was released without bail and told to stay away from the victim and the West End.

Kandola was first charged with assault causing bodily harm for allegedly punching Jordan Smith, 27, while he walked hand-in-hand with a friend in September.

His jaw was broken in three places.

On Sunday, hundreds of people held hands and marched in Vancouver in a rally to protest the attack.

Vancouver police had suggested to have the case prosecuted as a hate crime.

But Kandola's lawyer said surveillance video of the incident disputes some of the victim's account of the attack.

Kandola will make his next court appearance on Oct. 27. METRO VANCOUVER

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Michael Kandola leaves Vancouver's community court on Sept. 29. He is charged with aggravated assault on a gay man in Davie Village.

News in brief

TENTS It's now legal for homeless people in Victoria to sleep in tents in city parks after a by-law against camping in green spaces was axed by the B.C. Supreme Court, news1130.com reports. The court said the rule violated the Charter Of Rights by depriving people of liberty and security.

SAILORS The search continued yesterday for two Bangladeshi men who went missing after apparently trying to swim to shore from a cargo ship moored in English Bay, CBC News Online reports. The body of one of the men was found along the Spanish Banks shoreline Monday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Did you know?
The longest-serving Canadian prime ministers were: Overall service — William Lyon Mackenzie King (21 years, five months, five days); continuous — Sir Wilfrid Laurier (15 years, two months, 26 days). METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

Expect more drama in House

Experts talk about possible scenarios with another Tory minority

As the dust settles from another federal election, Canadians may spend today blinking and wondering whether the past five weeks were just a dream.

But despite the same old outcome yesterday — Prime Minister Stephen Harper in charge of a minority government — the Canadian constitution does allow for some unlikely but interesting possibilities in the months to come.

Three constitutional experts weighed in with scenarios that could change the status quo.

A crucial thing to remember is while the Governor General is not obligated to follow the will of the prime minister, she has to be careful exercising this authority, said Edward McWhinney, a former Liberal MP who has advised heads of state on constitutional matters.

"The Governor General is part of our checks and balances and there is a discretionary role still. There is the power to act in certain circumstances, but the Governor General is not elected, and it is a power that would be used only with extreme caution," he said.

"The Governor General is entitled to inquire and find out whether somebody else will enjoy the confidence of the House." Professor emeritus Ned Franks

After an election the initiative remains with the prime minister, and he is entitled to face the House of Commons.

Once the House of Commons is in session, a minority government always has the chance of being defeated on a non-confidence motion.

This would not necessarily mean the calling of a new election, said Queen's University professor emeritus Ned Franks, especially if the vote were to occur within a few months of Parliament reconvening.

Instead, "the Governor General is entitled to inquire and find out whether somebody else will enjoy the confidence of the House," Franks said.

"This would not be (a party leader) just saying, 'Oh sure, I have it! No problem,'" he said. Rather, he said, two or even three parties would have to credibly undertake to enjoy the the confidence of the House together — and make a public commitment to govern as a partnership "for a period of say, two years."

However, University of Toronto professor emeritus Peter Russell felt coalition power-sharing was an unlikely prospect in the current political landscape, even if the Liberals were to hold the most seats.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Final poll numbers

Who was most accurate?

Angus Reid Strategies (Oct. 13)
Conservative — 37
Liberal — 27
NDP — 20
Bloc — 9
Green — 7

Harris-Decima (Oct. 13)
Conservative — 34
Liberal — 25
NDP — 19
Bloc — 11
Green — 9

Nik Nanos (Oct. 12)
Conservative — 34.2
Liberal — 26.7
NDP — 21.4
Bloc — 9.5
Green — 8.2

EKOS (Oct. 13)
Conservative — 34.8
Liberal — 26.4
NDP — 19.4
Bloc — 9.8
Green — 9.6

Strategic Counsel (Oct. 13)
Conservative — 33
Liberal — 28
NDP — 18
Green — 11
Bloc — 10

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NDP 'building project' will continue

NDP It wasn't the orange wave that NDP Leader Jack Layton predicted , but for the New Democrats it was a respectable showing last night with several new seats.

"We are up everywhere in popular vote," party spokesperson Karl Bélanger told Torstar News Service last night.

"We won a seat for the first time in Newfoundland in a general election. The trend is good, but is obviously still a building project. This campaign will definitely set the base for next step," Bélanger said.

Jack Layton

The new seats, most of them in Ontario, mean that Layton's record is intact.

This is the third campaign for Layton, 58, since he took over the leadership in 2003. In that time, he brought the NDP from 13 seats to the 30 seats the party had when parliament was dissolved Sept. 7.

The strong Conservative minority puts to rest any talk of a coalition featuring the Liberals and NDP.

Trying to separate himself from the pack, Layton lashed out at the big banks and oil companies for ripping consumers off, aided and abetted by the Conservative and Liberal parties poised to give them huge tax cuts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dion fought uphill battle

LIBERALS Stéphane Dion, 53, running a national election campaign as leader for the first time, spent most of the contest playing catch-up.

Despite 19 months at the helm of the Liberal party, he was still trying to cement a positive image with voters. Unpopular with many Quebecers because of his efforts during the Jean Chrétien years to rein in nationalist aspirations, and little-known among English Canadians, the Liberal standard-bearer was at a tremendous disadvantage against veteran campaigners like Harper and the NDP's Jack Layton.

He was hamstrung by divisions within his own party and, for more than a year, the Conservatives spent millions of dollars on advertising targeting Dion in an effort to make him appear weak, indecisive and nerdy.

Voters' cool attitude toward Dion was a problem at the door for the Liberals throughout the 37-day effort, candidates said privately. And he confided late in the campaign that the unprecedented barrage of negative personal advertising was more damaging than he had realized at first.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

REUTERS/SHAUN BEST
Liberal leader Stephane Dion waves to supporters at his election night headquarters last night in Montreal.

May fails in bid to oust Peter MacKay

NOVA SCOTIA Green Party leader Elizabeth May, a proponent of a Canadian carbon tax, fell short yesterday in her bid to become the environmental party's first elected member of Parliament, according to media projections.

May lost an attempt to unseat Conservative Defense Minister Peter MacKay in Nova Scotia, an effort by the Greens that was seen as a long shot despite an agreement by the Liberals not to field a candidate.

May, a bubbly political and environmental activist, said she expects to remain as a party leader despite not getting a seat. "It's not perfect, but it's not unheard of," she told CTV Television.

May made only one cross-country campaign trip — a whistle-stop tour using a regularly scheduled passenger train — and spent nearly all her time campaigning to win the seat in her home province of Nova Scotia.

REUTERS

Harper given benefit of doubt in Quebec

Quebecers saw fit to give Prime Minister Stephen Harper the benefit of the doubt yesterday.

His attempt to more deeply seduce the province with his avowed record of open federalism had appeared to stall midway through the campaign.

But shortly after the polls closed, the Tories were leading or elected in 10 ridings in Quebec, one fewer than at Parliament's dissolution, indicating Conservative support was underestimated in the waning days of the campaign, when polls showed the Tories could lose as many as five seats.

The Bloc Québécois, after what analysts said was a good campaign by leader Gilles Duceppe, held 50 ridings late last night, denying the Conservatives the seats they needed to form a majority government. The Bloc captured 51 seats in 2006.

Another surprising result in Quebec was the strength of the Liberal Party, leading in 15 ridings. This, in spite of leader Stéphane Dion — considered anathema to many Quebecers for his role in the Clarity Act, which many viewed as a straitjacket for separation.

As expected, the Liberal's star candidate, 36-year-old Justin Trudeau, son of the late prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, was leading in his riding of Papineau, giving a boost to the party's sagging fortunes in Quebec.

But another Liberal candidate, comedian Sébastien Dhavernas, was also leading in Outremont, formerly held by the NDP's Thomas Mulcair.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ministers hold on

- Conservative ministers Josée Verner and Jean-Pierre Blackburn — badly trailing in polls during the campaign — held on to their seats. As well, disgraced former foreign minister Maxime Bernier was easily re-elected in Beauce with 63 per cent of the vote, despite the Julie Couillard affair.

News in brief

TURNOUT Advocates have tried to convince young people to vote for their future; immigrants to vote for their new country; and everyone else who's eligible to just get off their couches and vote because it's the right thing to do. Those activists will be scouring the election results today to see whether their efforts paid off. As preliminary results rolled in last night, it was difficult to tell whether turnout was up or down from the last federal election. In 2006, it was 64.7 per cent, up from 2004's turnout of 60.9 per cent. A steady improvement in this election could be a sign that the pressure to vote is starting to have an effect. A further decline would be the latest evidence that Canadians don't feel compelled to vote the way they did 50 years ago when voting peaked with more than 79 per cent going to the polls.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$290M

The estimated cost of this federal election is $290 million, according to Elections Canada. That puts the price tag at $837 million for the last three elections held in the last four years ($270 million — 2006; $277 million — 2004).

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Did you know?
The longest session of Parliament was five years, 10 months, 22 days. Canada's 12th Parliament ran from Nov. 15, 1911, to Oct. 6, 1917. The shortest session of Parliament was two months, six days. The 31st Parliament sat from Oct. 9, 1979, to Dec. 14, 1979. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

Conservatives blanked in Newfoundland, Labrador

Conservatives were shut out of Newfoundland and Labrador, where Premier Danny Williams ran an anti-Tory campaign stemming from a bitter feud over control of offshore energy revenues.

The Conservatives lost all three of their seats in the province, including Avalon, where incumbent Fabian Manning lost to Liberal candidate Scott Andrews.

The other two Conservative incumbents in the seven-seat province — Norman Doyle and Loyola Hearn — did not run again and the NDP and Liberals took their respective seats.

The news was better for the Conservatives elsewhere in the Atlantic provinces, where they picked up four seats from the Liberals.

They took one seat in Prince Edward Island, one seat in Nova Scotia and two seats in New Brunswick.

Bill Casey, who was booted out of the Tory caucus last year for voting against the federal budget after a dispute involving the Atlantic Accord, was re-elected as an Independent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Promises

Highlights of Tory platform

Economy: In the face of opposition demands for action to stave off threats of an economic downturn, Prime Minister Stephen Harper promised to invest $200 million in repayable loans for the aerospace sector and $200 million to fund automotive innovation. But the Liberals and NDP sought an economic update, even a full budget this fall, accelerated government spending and steps to protect savings.

Taxes: The Conservatives' big-ticket pledge is to reduce the excise tax on diesel fuel by two cents, a move that will cost $600 million annually. The proposal drew immediate criticism that it would drive up fuel consumption. The Tories also promised tax credits for new homeowners to cover closing costs. Families would get tax credits up to $500 for children under 16 who participate in arts and culture programs.

Law and order: Harper is promising to crack down on young offenders who commit serious crimes, up to life sentences for teens convicted of first- or second-degree murder. The Tories propose to end house arrest for serious crimes. The Liberals say the measures, including those for adults, would put an additional 7,000 people behind bars, requiring 100 new jails nationwide at a cost of $2.2 billion.

The Senate: The Conservatives are vowing to "reform or abolish" the Senate. Another platform flashpoint and one that puts the Conservatives on a collision course with premiers and threatens to reopen Constitutional talks.

Afghanistan: Harper, who pledged never to cut and run in Afghanistan, announced that Canada will withdraw most of its 2,500 troops from the war-torn country by 2011 and limit the role of any remaining troops to reconstruction and development. This went further than the parliamentary resolution that called for troops to be withdrawn only from the Kandahar area in southern Afghanistan.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What else would you expect a "Green Machine" to run on?

The way we see it, a Green Machine® should run on green power. So we arranged with Bullfrog Power and the Pembina Institute to supply our entire ABM network with clean, emission-free energy from sources like wind and low-impact water. A greener Green Machine is just one of the steps we're taking to reduce our impact on the environment.

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Sustainable Energy Solutions
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Did you know?

The oldest Canadian prime minister to take office was Charles Tupper, who was 74 years, 10 months old, when he became PM on May 1, 1896. Canada's youngest prime minister was Joe Clark, who took office at the age of 39 years, 11 months, on June 4, 1979. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

Recap

Tories make big gains in Ontario

RETURNS Stephen Harper's Conservatives have broken a 15-year Liberal stranglehold on Ontario.

While early returns indicated the Tories did not win enough of Ontario's 106 seats to secure a majority government, party insiders were elated last night to best Stéphane Dion's Liberals in Canada's most populous province.

"Winning Ontario is a huge triumph for Stephen Harper," Conservative Environment Minister John Baird, the prime minister's Ontario point man, said last night. "We need to focus like a laser on the economy. Ontario's future depends on it," Baird, re-elected in Ottawa West-Nepean, told the Toronto Star.

"The people of Ontario have given great support to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and we will work hard to honour that trust."

When the election was called, there were 51 Liberals MPs, 41 Conservatives, 12 New Democrats and two vacancies in Ontario.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Women still seek equality

The only female party leader lost her bid for a seat last night, setting an early and troubling tone for those anxious to see more women elected to Parliament.

With results in many tight races still being tallied late last night, it was difficult to know if there would be more or fewer women sitting in the House of Commons than the 64 who held seats when the election was called in September.

What was certain, though — even before the campaign began — was that the number of women elected wouldn't come close to the number needed, said Raylene Lang-Dion, chair of Equal Voice, a non-partisan advocacy group dedicated to getting more female politicians elected.

Canadian women have been voting in federal elections for 90 years but still have not achieved equality in the results.

Women make up half the population, but when Parliament dissolved, women held just one-fifth of the seats.

Given the difficulty in making big inroads in overall numbers, it was especially disappointing to see Green Leader Elizabeth May — the highest-profile woman candidate in this election — go down in defeat in Nova Scotia, losing to Defence Minister Peter MacKay, she said.

"It would have been good to see a female leader in the House of Commons," Lang-Dion said.

"I'm a big believer in what you're shown. If young people only see male provincial leaders, if they only see male federal leaders, half of the equation is missing," Lang-Dion added.

The United Nations says that for a critical mass to be achieved — where female politicians are heard and heeded — at least 30 per cent of the seats must be held by women.

The battle at the polls for women may be over for now, but for Lang-Dion there is one more fight to wage: Cabinet posts.

"We now have to focus on the women who have won and focus on encouraging the next prime minister on having more women in his cabinet," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Supporter Tara Veer waits for Conservative Leader Stephen Harper last night at his election headquarters in Calgary.

Minority unlikely to sway markets, experts say

Toronto's benchmark stock index may have "outperformed" Wall Street's S&P 500 under previous minority governments.

But history may not repeat itself this time around, because the financial crisis is threatening to trigger global recession, investment experts predicted yesterday.

The deepening financial crisis largely eclipsed the federal election, prompting Toronto's S&P/TSX Composite Index to fall in tandem with key stock markets around the globe.

While the TSX managed to recoup a portion of those losses during yesterday's massive 9.82 per cent rally, it is still down nearly 34 per cent from its all-time high set in June.

"The systematic effect of what is happening in the financial markets so swamps this election," said Eric Kirzner, a professor of finance at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

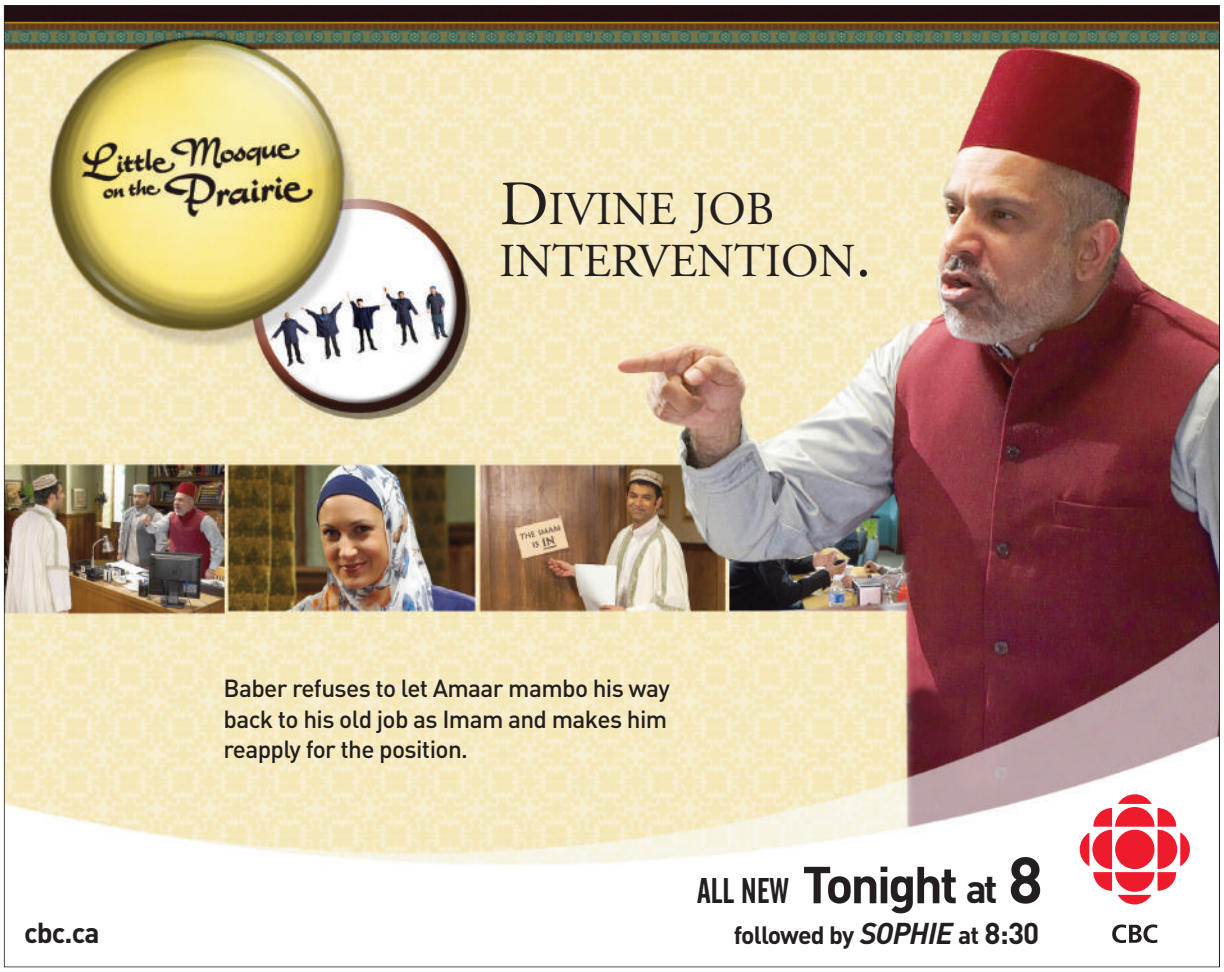
"Toronto cannot be driven by unique factors — not a chance."

The arrival of another minority Conservative government — with both the Liberals and New Democrats holding some power as opposition parties — would likely spark muted gains for the TSX because minority Parliaments "have often worked very well," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Basics

- A Canadian election "normally has a hard time capturing the attention of investors," said UBS strategist George Vasic in a recent research note to clients. With the financial crisis pushing it "even further into the background," he underscored a "few basics" about how the TSX has performed during previous minority governments. "While minority governments look potentially chaotic to foreign investors, the TSX has in fact outperformed the S&P 500 in six of the eight episodes that have occurred over the last half-century," Vasic wrote.


Little Mosque on the Prairie
DIVINE JOB INTERVENTION.
Baber refuses to let Amaar mambo his way back to his old job as Imam and makes him reapply for the position.
ALL NEW Tonight at 8
followed by SOPHIE at 8:30
CBC
cbc.ca

Elective heart surgery patients often go untested: Doctors
Americans on Medicare who get elective surgery to open blocked heart arteries often don't get the recommended stress tests to confirm the surgery is warranted, doctors said yesterday. The surgery costs the U.S. $10,000 to $15,000 per procedure. REUTERS

World/Business

McCain offers investors aid

In an effort to revive his campaign, Republican presidential nominee John McCain offered proposals yesterday to help investors rebound from the market crash while Democrat Barack Obama prepared for the candidates' final debate today.

"What we need to see now is swift and bold action to lead this country in a new direction," McCain told cheering supporters in Pennsylvania.

In the Philadelphia suburb of Blue Bell, McCain outlined an estimated $52.5 billion in proposals. Many are aimed at helping older Americans who have seen their retirement accounts hit in recent stock market gyrations.

McCain also proposed relief for Americans counting on investment income to send children to college or pay the mortgage.

In bad news for the McCain campaign, a poll yesterday gave Obama leads in four battleground states. He was up 52 per cent to McCain's 43 in Colorado, 54-38 in Michigan, 51-40 in Minnesota and 54-37 in Wisconsin. REUTERS

Debate prep

- Obama shook hands with workers at a factory in Ohio, then holed up at a resort on Lake Erie to prepare.
- McCain rehearsed for the debate in a closed-door session at a stage complex in Manhattan's theatre district.

Markets slip as U.S. unveils bank share plan

FINANCE The United States ushered in a new era in banking yesterday with plans to take equity stakes totalling up to $250 billion in financial institutions, a move into the private sector that U.S. officials called a regrettable last resort.

Markets initially rallied on the rescue plan, but recession fears soon took over and Wall Street stocks closed lower.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said government ownership of big stakes in banks was "objectionable" but necessary to head off the crisis.

Countries around the world have pledged roughly $3.2 trillion in a variety of schemes that guarantee bank deposits, interbank lending and the purchase of new securities to shore up bank capital. REUTERS

California **Watching and waiting**

PHIL MCCARTEN/REUTERS

Residents Eric Francisco and wife Shirley Francisco watch a news broadcast of the Los Angeles wildfire with other evacuees. Firefighters made gains yesterday against two deadly brush fires threatening homes as winds that stoked the flames diminished.

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN A UN envoy said insurgency in the country has spread beyond Taliban strongholds to provinces around Kabul, and that attacks in the country hit a six-year high in July and August. Attacks on civilians, including aid personnel, have also risen.

THAILAND More troops were sent to a disputed stretch of land on the Cambodian border. Troops from both sides had retreated slightly but were facing off about 100 metres apart. A Cambodian general had earlier said the Thai troops had pulled back. REUTERS

Business

TSX gives thanks with record rally

Toronto's premier stock index staged a massive rebound yesterday, surging nearly 900 points, as investors cheered plans by U.S. and European governments to collectively invest about $2.5 trillion US of taxpayer money into beaten-down bank stocks with an eye to preventing a global recession.

The S&P/TSX composite index — which was closed for the Thanksgiving Day holiday — was quick to play "catch up" to Monday's colossal rally in global markets, surging in early trading by as much as 18 per cent and recording its biggest-ever intraday spike. It later gave back a huge swath of that gain, closing up 9.82 per cent, or 890.5 points, at 9,955.66. Nonetheless, it was the steepest percentage advance on record for the index.

Still, the TSX remains in bear market territory, down nearly 34 per cent from its record high set June 18. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Daimler to close Ontario plant in 2009

CLOSURE Daimler AG will close two plants, one in St. Thomas, Ont., to address a deep market slump that shows no signs of easing, the world's biggest truckmaker said yesterday.

The Ontario facility will close in March; the Portland, Ore. one in June 2010. Around 2,300 workers will lose their jobs. The move will improve annual earnings by $900 million US by 2011. REUTERS

In **brief**

AUTOS Labour unions in the U.S. and Canada are concerned about the prospect of job losses from the rumoured merger between GM and Chrysler.

ONLINE EBay plans to expand its U.S. web classifieds unit Kijiji as its online auctions slow, but experts say it's unlikely it will overtake No. 1 player Craigslist.

INSURANCE Concerns about the capital position at Manulife Financial Corp. are overblown and the company is not looking at issuing common shares or cutting its dividend, its chief executive said. REUTERS

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† To receive $25 bonus Duetto Dollars, your application must be received and approved by Royal Bank of Canada. After your first Visa purchase, please allow 4–6 weeks for your $25 Duetto Dollars to appear on your Starbucks Card account. Existing Starbucks Duetto Visa cardholders are not eligible for this offer. This offer may not be used or combined with any other offer.

Madden breaks his consecutive commentary streak

John Madden, who has called an NFL football game in 476 consecutive weeks, will take this Sunday off to spend more time with his family. The 72-year-old, who travels by bus because of a fear of flying, would have had to travel to Tampa from San Diego, where the Chargers defeated the Patriots Sunday night. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Pacman suspended indefinitely

Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam (Pacman) Jones has been suspended indefinitely without pay by the NFL for an alcohol-related altercation with a personal security guard at a Dallas hotel last week. Jones will be suspended at least four games for violating his reinstatement arrangement, which expected the 25-year-old to refrain from any behavior that puts him, his team or the league in a negative light.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

REUTERS/MIKE SEGAR

Tampa Bay Rays' Willy Aybar hits a two-run home run last night against the Boston Red Sox in the third inning during Game 4 of the ALCS playoff series at Fenway Park in Boston.

Rays relentless in ALCS

MLB RECAP

Tamps Bay 13 Boston 4

BASEBALL Evan Longoria and the Tampa Bay Rays blew out the Boston Red Sox for the second straight game to take a commanding 3-1 series lead in the ALCS.

Longoria hit his rookie-record fifth home run of the playoffs to lead the Rays on a relentless rout of aging knuckleball pitcher Tim Wakefield.

Wakefield was victimized by Longoria, Carlos Pena and Willie Aybar for homers before being chased in the third inning.

The defending World Series champions will face elimination on Thursday as the series shifts back to Tampa for the fifth game.

Tampa is attempting to become one of the rare teams in sport to go from worst to first following their last place finish in 2007. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Russia mourns hockey star

HOCKEY Russia mourned one of its most promising young athletes on Tuesday after the death of 19-year-old Vanguard Omsk forward Alexei Cherepanov who collapsed during a match.

Alexei Cherepanov

Cherepanov, the first round pick in last year's draft by the New York Rangers, died in hospital on Monday after losing consciousness late in the third period of a league game in Chekhov, a small town south of Moscow.

A Russian investigator said yesterday that Cherepanov had a heart condition and should not have been allowed to play.

Cherpanov's agent refutes the claim saying the young star passed his fitness tests.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
BEST OF SEVEN
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Tampa Bay vs. Boston
LAST NIGHT'S RESULT
Tampa Bay 13 Boston 4
THURSDAY, OCT. 16
x-Tampa Bay at Boston, 5:07
SATURDAY, OCT. 18
x-Boston at Tampa Bay, 1:37
(Tampa leads series 3-1)
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Philadelphia vs. L.A. Dodgers
TONIGHT, OCT. 15
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 5:22
FRIDAY, OCT. 17
x-L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 5:22
(Phillies lead series 3-1)
x — only played if necessary.

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Pittsburgh 3 Philadelphia 2 (OT)
Minnesota 4 Atlanta 2
Calgary 5 Colorado 4
San Jose 5 Columbus 2
L.A. 6 Anaheim 3

CFL

FRIDAY, OCT. 17
B.C. at Edmonton, 6
SATURDAY, OCT. 18
Montreal at Toronto, 12
Winnipeg at Calgary, 3:30
SUNDAY, OCT. 19
Hamilton at Saskatchewan, 12

NFL

SUNDAY, OCT. 19
Baltimore at Miami, 10
Dallas at St. Louis, 10
Minnesota at Chicago, 10
San Diego at Buffalo, 10
Tennessee at Kansas City, 10
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants, 10
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 10
New Orleans at Carolina, 10
Detroit at Houston, 1:05
N.Y. Jets at Oakland, 1:15
Cleveland at Washington, 1:15
Indianapolis at Green Bay, 1:15
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 5:15
MONDAY, OCT. 20
Denver at New England, 5:30

Jagr-less N.Y. in charge

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

They no longer have Jaromir Jagr, but they have, um, Aaron Voros — and the New York Rangers are on fire.

And if they defeat the Buffalo Sabres tomorrow night, the Rangers will catapult to 6-0, which would be the best start in their long history.

"We honestly didn't expect to come out of the gate like this," goaltender Henrik Lundqvist confessed.

"But we're realizing we have something special. We're exceeding expectations because our players have some surprising skills."

Among them is Voros, a 27-year-old Vancouver native initially chosen 229th overall in the 2001 NHL Draft. He couldn't reach the NHL until last season, when he had a cup of coffee with Minnesota.

On Monday, in the Rangers' 4-1 triumph over the New Jersey Devils, Voros stood out with two goals and an assist, pushing his points total to seven. He produced only 14 points in 55 games with the Wild last season.

Jaromir Jagr

"When we scouted him, we saw a greasy player who would work hard and go to the difficult areas to score goals," Rangers coach Tom Renney said of Voros, whom the Rangers signed as a free agent this past summer. "We got him for a reason, and he's doing exactly what we figured he'd do."

Jagr, meanwhile, is playing for Avangard Omsk in the Kontinental Hockey League, and, privately, the Rangers are whispering they're better off without the future Hall of Famer and his mood swings.

• It's very early in the NHL season, but sources tell us:

Mike Keenan will be toast as Calgary coach if the Flames don't get hot soon.

Luke Schenn is poised as an 18-year-old defenceman for the Toronto Maple Leafs, but relies too heavily on his wrist shots and has yet to fire a slap shot in three games.

The Chicago Blackhawks are souring on goaltender Cristobal Huet and will start alternating him with Nikolai Khabibulin.

• Now that Paul Beeston has rejoined the Blue Jays as interim president, don't be surprised if his ex-partner, Pat Gillick, isn't far behind ... The Yanks also covet Gillick, who's in his final days as the Philadelphia Phillies' general manager ... I keep hearing J.P. Ricciardi's days as the Jays' GM are numbered, regardless ... A whole bunch of players given away by the Jays in minor trades over the years are starring in the league championship series, including the Los Angeles Dodgers' Casey Blake and the Philadelphia Phillies' Matt Stairs and Jayson Werth.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Stairs swings for fences

• Former Blue Jay Matt Stairs, who hit a dramatic, game-winning, pinch-hit home run in the Philadelphia Phillies' triumph over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL championship series Monday night, is anything but traditional when it comes to his hitting philosophy. While virtually every other major-leaguer claims they step to the plate with the objective of making good contact, Stairs openly admits he aims for homers. "I try to hit the ball out of the park," he said. "I'm not going to lie. It's fun."

Bertuzzi, Flames cool Avalanche for first win

NHL ROUNDUP

Calgary 5 Colorado 4

HOCKEY Todd Bertuzzi scored twice, including the game winner with nine minutes to go in regulation, as the Calgary Flames topped the Colorado Avalanche, 5-4, in a Northwest Division clash from the Pengrowth Saddledome.

Jarome Iginla registered a goal and an assist for Calgary, which yielded 11 goals in dropping a home-and-home series with the Vancouver Canucks to open the 2008-09 campaign. Daymond Langkow, Dion Phaneuf and Mike Cammalleri each collected two assists, while Miikka Kiprusoff stopped 25-of-29 shots to get the win

Wild 4 Thrashers 2 — Antti Miettinen scored twice and Andrew Brunette had a goal and an assist as the Minnesota Wild dispatched of the Atlanta Thrashers by a 4-2 margin at Philips Arena.

Marian Gaborik added an unassisted tally while Miettinen also assisted on Brunette's first period goal. Niklas Backstrom halted 24-of-26 shots to get the win for the Wild, who won their season opener at home on Saturday, 4-3, against Boston.

Penguins 3 Flyers 2 (OT) — Pascal Dupuis scored with 11 seconds remaining in overtime to give the Pittsburgh Penguins their second overtime win of the year.

Los Angeles 6 Anahiem 3 — Wayne Simmonds scored his first NHL goal and the Kings rallied to beat the Ducks for their first victory of the season.

San Jose 5 Columbus 2 — Patrick Marleau scored twice, including once shorthanded, to lift the unbeaten Sharks over the Blue Jackets. METRO NEWS SERVICES

DAVID MOLL/REUTERS

Calgary Flames David Moss looks to deflect a shot as he interferes with Colorado Avalanche goaltender Peter Budaj during the second period of their game in Calgary last night.

Columns to return
Both Workplace Law with Daniel Lublin and Odd Jobs with Diane Peters will return next week.

Workology

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EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Eat well on the cheap

MARIA COOTAUCO
for Metro Canada

The busy lifestyle of students often doesn't leave time for proper meals. But if you have five minutes, you have time to make a nutritious breakfast and lunch.

Vancouver-based registered nutritionist Rouve Hembling gives students the lowdown on how to eat well for breakfast and lunch whether you have five minutes or half an hour.

BREAKFAST

Five minutes — Throw frozen fruit, protein powder, fruit juice and an essential oil like flax into a blender and take your homemade fruit smoothee with you to go.

Fifteen minutes — Presoak your oatmeal in water the night before to save time in the a.m. Add honey, berries, cinnamon and nuts for flavour.

Thirty minutes — Whip up an omelette with veggies like peppers, onions and mushrooms. Add a slice of whole grain toast to the mix and you've got a well-balanced meal.

LUNCH

Five minutes — Heat up some pre-made soup and have a slice of whole wheat bread on the side. You can try making your soup beforehand, but if you're strapped for time, many grocery stores offer fresh soups to go. Avoid canned soups. They can be high in sodium and contain little fibre.

Fifteen minutes — Quinoa is a super grain that's high in protein and calcium. Simply boil it for an ancient grains salad. Add the prepared quinoa to a bed of lettuce or cabbage and top with sautéed mushrooms and chopped red onions. Finish it off with a vinegar-based dressing.

Thirty minutes — To whip up carrot and lentil patties, boil half a cup of lentils and one-and-a-half cups of grated carrots. Mash. Add half a teaspoon of curry powder, two egg yolks, cilantro and a quarter cup of breadcrumbs and mould into patty shapes. Dip them in breadcrumbs and cook in olive oil until golden brown.

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Rouve Hembling reaches for fruits at Granville Island. The nutritionist suggests mineral-rich organic apples as a good snack.

Dressing recipe

- Homemade Italian Dressing
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 2/3 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp. balsamic or apple cider vinegar
- 1/3 cup olive oil or flax oil
- 2 tsp Italian herbs
- 1 tsp sea salt
- Put ingredients in jar and shake.

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

B-Class an unexpected hit

Humble European roots are refined in roomy 2009 Mercedes model

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

2009 Mercedes-Benz B-Class

Type: Luxury compact hatchback
Price: $29,900-$34,400
Engine: 2.0-litre, DOHC inline four-cylinder and 2.0-litre DOHC turbocharged inline four-cylinder

Highlights

- FWD
- Turbo charge available
- Split-fold back seats

Hugely popular in Europe and abroad, the B-Class is not the first car one thinks of when you mention Mercedes-Benz.

The image of Mercedes-Benz in North America is of prestige vehicles loaded with technology. But in the rest of the world, Mercedes sells an astounding range of cars, buses and trucks that fill every price and need.

And while our American cousins eschew compact sedans and hatchbacks, they have always been popular here, as witnessed by the success of the smart car.

Built to Euro-tastes, the first B-Class cars were brought into Canada in 2005 as a down market, entry-level car. With plastic wheel covers over steel wheels and black door handles, they didn't resemble what we think of as a Mercedes-Benz with all the prestige and pride that comes with the three-pointed star.

But the new model adopts E-Class character lines that rises progressively from the front wing to the rear taillight, an interesting divergence between the concave and convex surfaces along the flanks. The tailgate is restyled with a chrome lower lip that adds to the overall upscale look, but also makes it easier to slide in big or heavy objects.

The interior is amazingly large for such a small car. At 1,530 litres, the length of the cabin is a full 70 per cent of the total length. The split/fold back seat has a pass-through for longer objects and the cargo floor is height adjustable.

The B-Class is available in a base B 200 with 2.0-litre, DOHC inline four-cylinder engine with 134 hp and 136 lb/ft of torque. The B 200 Turbo, with a turbocharged version of the 2.0-litre, produces 193 hp and 206 lb/ft of torque. Priced at $29,900 to start, the B 200 is fitted with a five-speed manual transmission. Starting at $34,400, the B 200 Turbo has a standard six-speed manual transmission. With all options, you can load up a B-Class to $40,000.

The B-Class' uses a "sandwich" front safety crash system that angles the engine back and down under the passenger compartment for lower leg and knee protection. The result is the highest possibly safety rating for frontal collisions, high seats and views, and deep rear passenger leg wells.

While only about 8,400 B-Class cars have been sold in Canada, worldwide sales are more than 350,000 and growing, a trend Mercedes-Benz Canada thinks will happen here.

Top cars in Paris auto show

The AutoWeek editorial staff has announced its Editors' Choice Award winners for the 2008 Paris Motor Show.

For more than a decade, the editors of the weekly automotive-enthusiast magazine have scoured show floors in Detroit, Geneva, Paris, Frankfurt and Tokyo, selecting winners in four categories: Best in Show, Best Concept, Most Significant and Most Fun.

The 2008 AutoWeek Editors' Choice Award winners for the Best of Paris are:

BEST IN SHOW

Lamborghini Estoque: "While the design is somewhat contrived, the Estoque really has presence when you see it in person."

Contenders for Best of Show: Ferrari California, Saab 9-X Air, and BMW 7-series.

The Lamborghini Estoque was selected as Best in Show at the 2008 Paris Motor Show by the AutoWeek editorial staff.

MOST SIGNIFICANT

Honda Insight: "This hybrid car will be cheaper than the Prius, have high fuel economy and seating for five. Honda has officially returned to the game they used to own."

Contenders for Most Significant: Audi A1 Sportback, Pininfarina Bollore, Mercedes Fascination, and Volkswagen Golf.

BEST CONCEPT

Peugeot RC HyMotion4: "If the French automakers were to come to the U.S., this is the car Americans would want. Here is an electric sports car we can love."

Contenders for Best Concept: Honda Insight, Mercedes Fascination, Audi A1 Sportback, and Saab 9-X Air

MOST FUN

Audi S4: "The S4 is a rocket ship that is fun and fuel efficient. It satisfies on all fronts."

Contenders for Most Fun: Fiat 500 Abarth Essesse, Ferrari California, Volkswagen Golf GTI, and Lexus IS250C.

Nissan further extends Safety Shield concept

Nissan has unveiled an All-Around Collision Free prototype incorporating two all-new technologies, Side Collision Prevention (SCP) and Back-up Collision Prevention (BCP).

Incorporating the available Distance Control Assist (DCA) and Lane Departure Prevention (LDP) systems, this latest prototype vehicle further extends Nissan's Safety Shield concept to help protect the vehicle and its occupants from potential risks coming from multiple directions.

Side Collision Prevention: When the driver decides to change lanes, the side-mounted sensors activate a warning if an approaching vehicle is detected in the driver's intended lane. A yaw mechanism is then activated through brake control of individual wheels, to help prevent a potential collision.

Back-up Collision Prevention: During a reversing manoeuvre, rear and side-mounted sensors detect objects in the path of the vehicle.

If an object is detected an alarm sounds followed by the activation of the brakes to help avoid a collision in situations such as when a vehicle is backing out of a parking space.

The DCA helps maintain an adequate following distance, while the LDP helps to prevent the vehicle from veering off its designated driving lane.

Both the DCA and LDP systems complement the SCP and BCP to create the All-Around Collision Free prototype.

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The modern and swoopy 6

New Mazda 6 gains size and power

Mazda's success in lifting the 6 (or Atenza in other markets) to global acclaim — out of the 626's boring mould — was no small feat.

For North America, Mazda poked and prodded the 6 to nearly become the largest car in its class. One body style is offered, a sedan, fitted with your choice of either a powerful 170-hp 2.5L four-cylinder engine or a really powerful 272-hp 3.7L six-cylinder engine.

That motor is wrapped in a four-door shell, modern and swoopy, helped along by even the smallest wheel size being 17-inch alloys.

In Asia, Europe and the Middle East, the 6 is offered in three body styles like the outgoing model: Sedan; five-door hatchback; or wagon. It's offered with a range of engines, including diesels.

And size-wise, it's nearly identical to the outgoing car while "our" 6 is more than seven inches longer than "their" 6. Ours is also slightly larger in all other measurements, including weight.

Do I need to express which one Canadians would rather drive?

Despite wanting to hold the, um, dimensions against it, the new 6 is simply larger than the original in every dimension: Wheelbase is lengthened by 115 mm; overall length is greater by 195 mm; and overall width is increased by 60 mm. The upshot? You'll benefit from more headroom, shoulder room, legroom and cargo room — the trunk grows by a useful 39 litres to 469 litres.

Inside, the 6 is a mix of current Mazda themes — pronounced centre stack, multiple red displays and a sporty instrument binnacle. Kudos to Mazda for keeping the two trim levels similar in interior appearance, with the base car feeling upscale — without making the top trim cars appear too cheap. Cubbyholes are everywhere, but perhaps not as many as in an Accord.

Inside, the 6 is a mix of current Mazda themes — pronounced centre stack, multiple red displays and a sporty instrument binnacle. Kudos to Mazda for keeping the two trim levels similar in interior appearance, with the base car feeling upscale.

The car is offered in two trim grades, GS and GT. And listen closely because it gets murky: Each trim level is available with either the four-cylinder or six-cylinder engine. On four-cylinder models, the standard transmission is a six-speed manual, with a five-speed automatic optional. On V6 models, a six-speed automatic is the only transmission available.

The four-cylinder GS starts at $22,495. You want standard features? Seventeen-inch wheels, anti-lock brakes (ABS) with electronic brake force distribution, traction control, front and side airbags as well as side-curtain air bags, height-adjustable rear headrests, anti-theft alarm system, and engine-immobilizer are included, as are power windows, tilt and telescopic steering wheel, AM/FM/CD/MP3/AUX-IN stereo with six speakers, air conditioning, 60/40 split-fold rear seat. Both a five-speed automatic transmission with Sport mode (four-cylinder models) and satellite navigation system are available as standalone options.

When equipped with the 3.7-litre V6 engine, the GS gets fog lights and LED taillights and bumps to $27,495.

With the four- or six-cylinder motor, the only package available on the GS is labelled "Comfort" — included are: Dynamic stability control, eight-way power driver's seat, sunroof, leather-wrapped steering wheel, shift knob and parking brake handle, and rain-sensing wipers.

The GT trim is basically the GS with the Comfort package plus a few goodies, at a starting price of $27,395 for the four-cylinder.

Eighteen-inch alloy wheels, fog lights, LED taillights, leather interior, heated front seats, four-way power adjustable passenger seat, automatically dimming mirrors, six-disc CD changer, Homelink, and trendy "indirect illumination" from the overhead console.

Don't forget you've still got to pay extra for the six-cylinder motor.

Top-range 6s will trot from the factory draped in the "GT Luxury" package, with smart keyless entry system and push-button ignition, BOSE surround sound system, Bluetooth integration, SIRIUS satellite radio compatibility, and HID headlights with manual leveling adjustment. On GT V6 vehicles, the package also includes a blind spot monitoring system and a welcome foot light on exterior mirrors.

Light-but-direct steering, high levels of grip, impeccable turn-in, under-control torque steer and predictable body roll and lean mean the 6 can be wound up and enjoyed if you're in a hurry.

CAR GUIDE STAFF
FOR METRO CANADA

2009 Mazda 6

Type: Sedan
Price: $22,495 and up
Engine: 2.5-litre I-4 or 3.7-litre V6
HP: 170 and 272

Highlights

- Larger than predecessor
- Light, direct steering
- Looks upscale

Increased dimensions on the Mazda 6 means you will benefit from more headroom and shoulder room.

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[1]When equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission, estimated 2009 ratings, based on GM testing in accordance with approved transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. [2]Equivalent Aveo model tested. US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). [3]Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

Heavy hitter

Aspen called the "300 of SUVs"

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

2008 Chrysler Aspen Limited

Type: SUV
Price: $49,995
Engine: 5.7-litre OHV V8
HP: 335

Highlights

- 4WD
- Seats 8
- Sturdy

The Aspen is aimed at some pretty big game in the SUV segment like the Chevrolet Tahoe, Honda Pilot and the Toyota Sequoia.

Much has been happening with Chrysler in the last half year.

It is now a standup automaker with the departure of its former partner Daimler-Benz, but that doesn't seem to have had much impact on the perception of the company.

For that you can thank the made-in-Brampton Chrysler 300C and Chrysler's iconic Hemi V8.

Chrysler knows the Hemi is more than a brand name. It conjures up the vision of American power and engineering. And that includes the 2008 Aspen Limited that Chrysler calls "the 300 of SUVs."

While it shares much in common with the Dodge Durango, it is by no means the same truck with a leather and softer suspension package.

The Aspen is aimed at some pretty big game in this segment like the Chevrolet Tahoe, Honda Pilot and the Toyota Sequoia.

What Chrysler intends to do is beat them on packaging and pricing.

Canada only gets one version of the Aspen, the Limited.

Ours is what the Americans call their Limited with the optional "J Package" that includes full leather, quad captains chairs with full heating (second row 40/20/40 split/fold bench optional), backup sonar — and the list goes on. About the only options are the rear seat DVD entertainment system, navigation system, skid plate and towing package.

Base price is $49,995. My tester with just about every option available including the centre row split/fold seat that turns the Aspen into an eight-seater was $56,795 and that included a $1,300 shipping fee.

While the U.S. gets two engines, including a 4.7-litre V8 that can run on a wide range of gasoline/alcohol mixtures, in Canada only the best is coming to us in the form of the legendary 5.7-litre Hemi V8 producing 335 hp and 370 lb/ft of torque.

The Hemi features Chrysler's Multi-displacement System (MDS) that lets the engine switch to four-cylinder mode when it is on cruise. When passing or launch power is needed, the engine fires on all eight-cylinders. Fuel consumption is rated at 16.4L/100 km (17 mpg) city and 11.0L/100 km (26 mpg) highway.

Also standard on the Aspen Limited is four-wheel-drive (4WD) that uses a two-speed transfer case. There are three modes that can be selected by a switch on the dash.

With the grunt of the Hemi, Chrysler is claiming best-in-class towing of 3,969 kg. The five-speed automatic transmission in tow/haul mode holds lower gears longer in order to quell the tendency for automatic to hunt for the correct cog. It also shifts itself down to a lower gear when the Aspen is towing downhill.

In addition to anti-lock braking (ABS) and pitch and yaw program (ESP), the Aspen comes standard with Trailer Sway Control that detects when something you're towing is starting to weave. It then steps along with the ESP and uses the brakes and engine retardation to gets things back on track.

With the optional 20-inch wheels on chrome-capped alloy wheels, it's a big step up and into the cabin where it is a very pleasant place to be.

Chrysler and Dodge interiors are now as remarkable as the exterior styling. As mentioned, my tester had the optional 40/20/40 split/fold second row seat.

The Aspen abounds with lots of extras such as heated seats and outside mirrors that all added up to make for a pleasing ride. Just a few I noticed were: The brilliant white LED interior lighting, a power rear liftgate, and a 115 V AC inverter for things such as laptops and gaming.

The 1984 Plymouth Voyager, one of the first "magic wagons" that revolutionized family transportation.

'Magic wagons' an icon 25 years later

VANS In 1983, the Internet was in its infancy, the first mobile phones were introduced and Chrysler was assembling a new automotive innovation — the minivan.

Baby boomers were starting families in large numbers and looking for an economical alternative to traditional sedans and wagons.

In response, Chrysler product planners devised a platform theme that utilized a flat-load floor with the entire powertrain in front of the passenger compartment. Utilizing a front-engine, front-wheel-drive chassis design, Chrysler engineers created a platform with chair-high command-of-the-road seating and easy entry and exit.

After obtaining federal funding in 1980 to develop the "magic wagon" program, the company revamped the Windsor Assembly Plant to produce the upcoming family hauler.

On Nov. 2, 1983, the first minivan rolled down the assembly line in Windsor, Ont. and became an instant success. As the minivan became a cultural icon throughout North America in the 1980s, its introduction to the international markets helped establish and solidify the Chrysler brand worldwide.

With more than 12 million minivans sold worldwide and over 260 awards, Chrysler and Dodge minivans are continuing to make history.

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Automotive in brief

NEWFOUNDLAND TARGA Team Mitsubishi, piloted by Andrew (ACP) Comrie-Picard and co-driver Jen Horsey posted a first place driving their Lancer Evolution in the Modern division of the world-renowned Targa Newfoundland. With more than 70 competing cars, this event featured an endurance-testing course that covered 2,200 kilometres of travel on the eastern half of Newfoundland, from St. John's north to Gander, south to the Burin Peninsula and back to St. John's.

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One tough cookie

Suzuki delivers a true 'ute with Grand Vitara

There's a lot to like about the Grand Vitara. Especially in this latest iteration, where the utility and performance of a full-size SUV have been mated to the styling, economy, and ease of use normally associated with a car-based cute 'ute. Suzuki is still an unknown quantity for many SUV buyers.

2009 Suzuki Grand Vitara

Type: SUV
Price: $25,995-$32,695
Engine: 2.4-litre four-cylinder or 3.2-L V6
HP: 166 or 230

Highlights

- 4WD
- Highest tow rating in class
- Reasonably priced

But once you've taken the Grand Vitara off-road, you begin to appreciate the engineering feats Suzuki has accomplished. First, this is a true 4WD vehicle. It's unibody with an integrated ladder frame, plenty of ground clearance, and an impressive 4WD system that's capable of sending all of the vehicle's power front or rear — or anywhere in between — depending on the conditions. You can't say the same for the competition who trade off-pavement potential for everyday ride comfort.

Sure, the Grand Vitara could ride a bit better, but it's by no means harsh — it's actually quite surprising just how well it's been tuned for on-road comfort.

The big news for 2009, apart from the slightest of interior and exterior freshening, is the addition of a four-cylinder engine.

The unit is a relatively fuel-efficient 166-hp 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine, with a more powerful 230-hp 3.2-L V6 optional. Suzuki says the mix between four-cylinder and six-cylinder models in the Grand Vitara's class is tilting in favour of the four-bangers across the segment — from a 40/60 ratio just last year to more than 50/50 now. That means Suzuki is also expecting to double their market share, a goal that seems perfectly reasonable.

Once you've taken the Grand Vitara off-road, you begin to appreciate the engineering feats Suzuki has accomplished.

But in keeping with the rough-and-tumble capabilities, the vehicle has been blessed with a four-mode 4WD system that can switch between 4-High and 4-Low, and to neutral for flat towing. Oh, and it also has the highest tow rating in its class at 1,360 kg. It's one tough cookie.

What's new for 2009: Six standard airbags; ESP (V6 models only, but includes Hill Hold and Hill Descent Control); rear disk brakes with ABS, EBD and Brake Assist; chrome-plated inside door handles; extendable sun visors and sliding armrest; a vehicle information display in the dash; eight speaker premium sound system (JLX trim); bigger front grille and front bumper; standard 17-inch alloy wheels (four-cylinder); with 18-inch alloy wheels standard on the V6.

Pricing starts at a competitive $25,995 for the Grand Vitara four-cylinder in JA trim with a five-speed manual; an automatic adds $2,000 and bumps the trim to JX. Fully loaded four-cylinder models, the JLX and JLX with leather, ring in $1,000 apart, with the former priced at $28,995. The larger V6 costs an additional $2,500, putting the price to $31,695 — and a Grand Vitara V6 in full-zoot leather interior hits $32,695. In all, it's a compelling product at a reasonable price. **CARGUIDE STAFF/ FOR METRO CANADA**

Safety first when buying teen's first car

Parents faced with the challenge of choosing a first car for their teens should consider five tips from experts.

Designed to help protect young drivers, these suggestions focus on safety, which also helps to lower the cost of auto insurance.

New teen drivers spend countless hours dreaming of owning their first car.

A fast sports car conjures exciting images, while an SUV has ample room for all of their friends, and both vehicles have one thing in common: Neither is a good choice for teens.

Before car shopping begins, it is wise to set ground rules that may ease the polarized viewpoints shared by parents and their teens.

Fast sports cars and roomy SUVs may not be the best options when picking a vehicle for young drivers, experts suggest.

WATCH THE SPEED

Driving fast cars with turbochargers and high horsepower carries significant risk. Since car accidents are the leading cause of death among 15- to 20-year olds (one-third of those accidents are attributable to speeding) any fast car is an unwise choice.

A good choice is a vehicle with a four-cylinder engine and average horsepower, which costs less to insure and may save lives.

GROUNDED IN REALITY

When it comes to vehicles, many parents mistakenly presume that big equates to safe. The opposite is often times true for young drivers, however, as SUVs and pick-up trucks can pose significant dangers for teen drivers.

These vehicles have a high centre-of-gravity, which makes them less stable and more prone to rollover than traditional mid-sized sedans, especially for inexperienced drivers.

Pick-up trucks are two times more likely, and SUVs are three times more likely, to roll over than traditional passenger cars.

BUY 1997 OR LATER

While pre-owned cars are less expensive, older models may be more costly to insure, and they often don't have modern safety features found on newer cars.

Although many parents can't afford new or almost-new vehicles, they should focus on models manufactured in 1997 or later, the year airbags were required in all cars.

KNOW THE SCORE

Whether shopping for a new or pre-owned vehicle, always check crash-test scores.

ASK FOR A RATE QUOTE

Before you go car shopping, find out how much it will cost to insure your teen in his or her new car.

Change of heart at the lot

BUYING A majority of vehicles in the U.S. are rejected only after a new-vehicle shopper has visited a dealership, according to J.D. Power and Associates' 2008 Escaped Shopper Study.

The study, which analyzes the reasons why consumers consider a model but ultimately purchase a different make or model, finds that 80 per cent of vehicles are rejected after a new-vehicle shopper has visited a dealership.

Three dealer-related issues are among the top reasons for not purchasing a vehicle: Another dealer has better service; limited availability of the specific vehicle shoppers are looking for; and lack of professionalism among personnel at the dealership.

The study also finds that an increasing number of shoppers have considered buying an Asian brand, 63 per cent in 2008, up from 60 per cent in 2007.

Conversely, the proportion of shoppers who considered buying a domestic brand has decreased, down to 55 per cent in 2008 from 58 per cent in 2007.

Shoppers who cross-shop among Asian and domestic brands are more likely to purchase an Asian brand and most often cite retained value, reliability and gas mileage as primary reasons for their choice.

In contrast, customers who purchase a domestic brand instead of an Asian brand most commonly cite a desire to "buy American" as their primary reason for purchase, followed by rebates and incentives offered, and vehicle price.

The percentage of shoppers who cite gas mileage as a reason for rejecting a vehicle has increased in 2008, up to nearly 20 per cent this year from nearly 17 per cent in 2007.

Unsatisfactory gas mileage is the third-most-common reason to reject a vehicle, with particularly high rates of rejection in the large, midsize and compact utility segments.

Nearly 40 per cent of all new-vehicle shoppers cite price as the most influential reason for not purchasing a vehicle.

Additionally, nearly one-half of shoppers 40 years of age and younger reject vehicles based on price- or finance-related issues.

In contrast, only one in three shoppers over 60 years of age reject vehicles for the same reasons.

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*On all 2009 models. Compared to MSRP for 2008, same model. **MSRP for a 2009 Murano 3.5 S AWD (L6RG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Altima Coupe 2.5 S (T2RG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Xterra S 4x4 (8CLG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Armada LE-V8 4x4 (7CTG79 AA00), automatic transmission/ 2009 Altima Hybrid 2.5 S (T4HG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Rogue 2.5 S FWD (W6RG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Frontier King Cab XE 4x2 (2KLG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Maxima 3.5 SV (U4SG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Titan King Cab XE 4x2 (1KAG79 AA00), automatic transmission / 2009 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Pathfinder S 4x4 (5CRG79 AA00), automatic transmission. †$47,498 MSRP for a 2009 Murano LE AWD (L6SG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ $29,798 MSRP for a 2009 Altima Coupe 3.5 SE (T2SG59 AA00), manual transmission/$36,398 MSRP for a 2009 Xterra SE (8CSG79 AA00), automatic transmission/ $30,698 MSRP for a 2009 Rogue SL AWD model w/Premium Package (Y6SG19 BK00), CVT transmission/ $16,498 MSRP for a 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 SL (B5RG59 AA00) manual transmission/ $31,798 MSRP for a 2009 Frontier PRO-4X King Cab (4KVG59 AA00), manual transmission/ $39,950 MSRP for a 2009 Maxima 3.5 SV w/Sport Package (U4SG19 SP00), CVT transmission/ $35,098 MSRP for a 2009 Titan King Cab SE 4x2 SWB (1KCG79 AA00), automatic transmission / $29,498 MSRP for a 2009 Altima Sedan 3.5 SE (T4SG59 AA00), manual transmission/ $40,698 MSRP for a 2009 Pathfinder SE 4x4 (5CSG79 AA00), automatic transmission. Destination and PDE charges ($1,500)/ ($1,400)/ ($1,500)/ ($1,550)/ ($1,400)/ ($1,500)/ ($1,325)/ ($1,440)/ ($1,425)/ ($1,450)/ ($1,400)/ ($1,500), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less. ‡1.9% purchase financing for up to 60 months available only on 2009 Altima Sedan and 2009 Rogue models. Finance Example for a 2009 Rogue 2.5 S FWD (W6RG19 AA00): $23,798 MSRP, financed at 1.9% APR for 60 months equals $354.89 per month with $5,000 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $995.47 for a total obligation of $26,293.47. Up to $84 PPSA, $1,500 freight and PDE, license, insurance registration and taxes are extra. Finance offers available on Nissan vehicles on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles may require factory order. Offers available for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers.

California bound

The California Travel and Tourism Commission says that in 2007, a record number of Canadian travellers visited the state — 1,148,000, marking an 11 per cent increase from 2006. CTTC has worked aggressively in the last few years to target Canadian visitors. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Happy 800th

The University of Cambridge is one of the oldest in the world. In 2009 it celebrates 800 years as a seat of learning with a year-long program of events in the city, across the UK and around the world. Celebrations start on Jan. 17 when churches in the city will ring their bells for the anniversary year. VISITBRITAIN.COM

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Feel Washington's election buzz

U.S. capital pulses with excitement during presidential race

EMMA E. FORREST
for Metro World News

Washington, D.C. is an exciting city to be in right now, especially with a presidential race taking place. The city is easy to navigate, has plenty to discover and is a great place to feel the election buzz first-hand this fall.

Bi-Partisan's two-tone electric cars are a perfect way for political fence-sitters to tour the capital.

The symbols of the Democratic (donkey) and Republican (elephant) parties are seen on display in this file photo.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Sightseeing at the Mall

Before you get under the skin of the city, orient yourself with the Bi-Partisan tour, a wacky expedition in a two-tone electric car. You'll whizz past the majestic monuments of the Mall in this quirky automobile while your guide entertains you with the history of the city.

If you want to show your political allegiance, toot your horn — there's a braying donkey for the Democrats and a trumpeting elephant for the Republicans (bi-partisantourcompany.com).

Sights to explore on foot include the U.S. Supreme Court (supremecourtus.gov), the National Archives (nationalarchives.gov) and Library of Congress (loc.gov).

For an alternative twist on U.S. history, recap on the major events of the last hundred years as seen through the media at Newseum, an engaging museum dedicated to all things media (newseum.org).

Power lunching

Museums might be a must, but there are reminders of D.C.'s political bent all over town. Get into the spirit and go for a power lunch — movers and shakers do their deals over fancy meals.

Close to Capitol Hill, the George is the city's first boutique hotel. Washington's elite come here for functions or to dine alongside other local and foreign dignitaries in the upmarket bistro, Bis.

Keep an eye out for political celebrities, including Barack Obama and the Clintons, as well as Hollywood stars like Sean Penn who stay there when they're in town to support their favourite causes (hotelgeorge.com).

At the Renaissance Mayflower hotel, D.C.'s political scenesters rub shoulders in the Town and Country Bar. The largest luxury hotel in the city, this is the site of most U.S. presidents' inaugural balls.

For something a little more discreet, there's always breakfast at the Four Seasons over in Georgetown and away from the heart of the action. Even if you're not meeting up with a senator, it's worth visiting for the breakfast alone, in particular the crab cake Benedict, a mountain of juicy Chesapeake crab dressed with tangy tomato hollandaise (fourseasons.com/washington).

Political cocktails

If dining in fancy restaurants is not your thing, then there are plenty more affordable ways of registering your vote.

Bars across the city have conceived party-inspired cocktails, so you can show your support for either Obama or John McCain by picking a red or blue martini.

Younger lobbyists mingle in the bars and restaurants in the Adams-Morgan and U Street neighbourhoods. Politicos meet up for beer and chicken wings at Stetsons, a crowded Tex-Mex dive bar, or smarten up for dinner at hip, minimalist restaurant Leftbank on 18th Street (leftbankdc.com).

Further down the street is a reminder of the civil rights battles fought in the city, Ben's Chili Bowl. Currently celebrating its 50th year, this hot dog restaurant is the only establishment to have survived the 1968 riots and resulting degeneration and regeneration of the area.

Inauguration packages

If you're planning to be in town for the inauguration, be sure to reserve your room quickly.

Most hotels are offering a minimum five-night package, and most of those have already been snapped up by U.S. society's finest, who will attend the week of prestigious inaugural balls.

Washington, D.C. 101

- Where to stay: The Donovan Hotel, Washington D.C.'s newest boutique hotel with stylish minimalist rooms and a rooftop pool overlooking the sights of D.C. Room rates from $189 US (thompsonhotels.com).
- When to go: Cold in winter and hot and humid in summer, D.C. is good all year round. For cheaper rates in hotels and restaurants, visit in August, when the Senate is not in session and Restaurant Week takes place, with upmarket eateries offering cheap menus.

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Las Vegas in London

The Casino at the Empire has just laid claim to being London's largest casino. Whether you fancy a go at the cards, a lavish meal or a boogie on the dance floor, there's enough excitement to keep you entertained all night; see *thecasinolsq.com*. METRO WORLD NEWS

Bringing home a most unwelcome souvenir

Bot Fly is one tropical oddity that can grow on you

The Travel Junkie

If you're squeamish, stop reading! This is a disgusting travel tale that reads more like a sci-fi flick than it does a real life occurrence.

Two weeks ago, I was in the western part of Belize taking part in a jungle survival course for a story. As I hacked through dense vines, my guide listed potential dangers: venomous Fer-De-Lance snakes, carnivorous jaguars, hot-tempered fire ants and the little-known Bot Fly.

"Though Mom doesn't have medical expertise, she's good at tweezing her eyebrows, so we sterilized her pluckers and prepared for surgery."

Found in Central America, a Bot Fly looks much like a house fly, only bigger and hairier. It breeds by attaching its eggs to a mosquito. When the mosquito bites its victim the Bot Fly larvae burrows into the host's skin and grows into a plump, white worm.

Since I'd worn long pants, dressed in light-coloured clothing and doused myself in DEET I figured I was protected. But I left the jungle with itchy red mosquito bites and lingering questions. My paranoia grew, as did a mysterious red pimple on my butt. Along with the occasional burst of pus, there was a stinging sensation. People thought I was crazy, but I was convinced — I had Bot Fly.

Having never heard of Bot Fly, my Canadian doctor concluded it was an infected mosquito bite and wrote a prescription. The diagnosis led me to Dr. Mom. A travel writer herself, Mom is familiar with tropical oddities. Though she doesn't have medical expertise, she's good at tweezing her eyebrows, so we sterilized her pluckers and prepared for surgery. "I see something white," she said, looking at the wound. "Is it pus?" I stammered. "What is it?"

I looked up and found she had extracted a little white worm. The larvae was the size of a fingernail, a spiral of black hairs along his body. We stared, astounded.

My stomach went queasy. I felt a combination of relief, disgust and I-told-you-so bravado. Sick! I'd just delivered my very own Bot Fly, a most unusual souvenir.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

Lonely Planet publishes definitive guide on what to do and where to go in 2009

TRAVEL GUIDES Visit a 'Stan. Sail somewhere. Journey through the Basque country or Tasmania's Bay of Fires. Eschew art museums for temporary exhibits.

The travel gurus at Lonely Planet have come up with what they say is the definitive list of what to do and where to go in 2009, and in a condensed format for today's time-strapped travellers.

The Best in Travel 2009, published this month, is a compilation of lists of 850 destinations, journeys and experiences recommended by the guide book publishers. And the longest entry is two pages long.

As well as lists such as Most Spine-Tingling Commutes and Best Places for Deadly Sins, the guide book includes the top 10 countries and top 10 regions travellers must visit next year. There is also a month-by-month trip planner, as well as country profiles and statistics.

Unlike more in-depth guides, there are no restaurant or hotel recommendations.

PASCAL PARROT/GETTY IMAGES

This file photo shows pedestrians in downtown Algiers. On Lonely Planet's list of countries to visit in 2009, Algeria is No. 1.

Tony Wheeler, Lonely Planet's co-founder, introduces the book with his own list, which includes visiting a country whose name ends in "-stan," such as Afghanistan or Kyrgyzstan, finding a trip that involves sailing, such as a transatlantic cruise, staying for a long time in one place to soak up the atmosphere, or going on a long trip, such as a trek across the Sahara. REUTERS

Top destinations

- Here are Lonely Planet's top countries to visit in 2009:

1. Algeria
2. Bangladesh
3. Canada
4. Georgia
5. Greenland
6. Kyrgyzstan
7. Oman
8. Peru
9. Rwanda
10. Sierra Leone

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Veronica Mars creator getting Down
Veronica Mars creator Rob Thomas will soon be whetting TV appetites weekly with his new comedy, Party Down. The program, to be produced for Starz Media, will focus on six Hollywood wannabes who work together at a catering company. TVGUIDE.COM

Entertainment

Miley's story
Singer/actress Miley Cyrus has finished writing a book about her life at the age of 15. The star was reportedly paid a seven-figure sum to tell her "inspiring story." BBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Passchendaele's big coup

Tiny budgets restrict filmmakers from telling Canadian war stories

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

Canada produces a fraction of the films that come out of Hollywood, a number that dwindles into insignificance when you count other moviemaking giants such as India and China.

Tiny budgets have ensured that genres such as epics and adventure films are nonexistent, so it's not surprising that we've only produced two war films in 25 years, the newest of which — Paul Gross' Passchendaele — is being released this Friday.

Like its predecessor, Robin Phillips' 1983 The Wars, it's set during World War One, and the pair may constitute the whole of the country's catalogue of fictional war films.

The fact isn't surprising — movie production in this country is as much a bureaucratic as a cultural undertaking, and the 1914-1918 war looms large in our cherished national myths, thanks to historians such as C. P. Stacey, who called it the most important event in Canadian history, and Desmond Morton and J. L. Granatstein, who dubbed it our war of independence.

Paul Gross' World War One film Passchendaele opens in theatres Friday.

The mere existence of a film like Passchendaele is a contribution to that long-standing project of buffing up our history — with an educational component ready to be sent into the schools, you can look at it as a belated update to the memorials and cenotaphs that went up in the centre of practically every city, town and village in the country in the years after the Armistice.

With such little practice, however, it's not surprising that Passchendaele is more familiar than groundbreaking.

The brutal truth is that most films about World War One still play out like remakes of Lewis Milestone's Oscar-winning All Quiet On The Western Front, made in 1930 at the dawn of talkies.

Much as the war left an indelible mark on Canada, it established its imagery worldwide with nightmarish vividness early on, and every First World War movie ends up recreating the scenes that Milestone filmed when the generation that witnessed it in person hadn't even reached middle age — the endless trenches bracketing a deadly sea of mud and barbed wire, filled with the bodies, living and dead, of men who had learned firsthand about the absurdity of politics and the futility of life, a cultural mood that would still be a vital force well past the point when the next world war began.

Structurally, though, Gross' film is a very different creature, misleadingly titled, since scenes set in battle only bookend the melodramatic story of a soldier and a nurse well behind the lines — in Calgary, in fact.

In this light, Passchendaele is more like the 1957 adaptation of A Farewell To Arms, starring Rock Hudson and Jennifer Jones, or D-Day The Sixth Of June, a 1956 film which takes place mostly in a flashback on the eve of the pivotal World War Two battle, and concerns itself mostly with a love triangle between two soldiers and an Englishwoman.

Gross' apparent impatience with the actual battle that gave his film its title is to be expected; the best American film about World War Two (William Wyler's 1946 The Best Years Of Our Lives) actually takes place after Japan and Germany are defeated, and you might argue that the best film about Vietnam (Francis Ford Coppola's Apocalypse Now) has about the same relationship to that conflict as a cheesecake has to a cow.

War is terrible enough that it's hard to imagine anyone wanting to spend two hours immersed in it, even in a theatre, so we use it as a setting for a romance (The English Patient) or an adventure (Guns Of Navarone), or even a bitter romance shot through with a castigating vision of a Canada rife with bigotry and intolerance (Passchendaele).

Halle Berry bringing sexy back to town

HollywoodNorth

Andrea Woo
andrea.woo@metronews.ca

Halle Berry, who was recently voted "Sexiest Woman Alive" by Esquire magazine, will be returning to Vancouver in coming weeks to shoot **Frankie and Alice**, a psychological drama slated for release next year. The 42-year-old Academy Award winner will star as a woman with multiple personality disorder, with one of her alter egos being a racist Caucasian. (**Clayton Bigsby**, anyone?) Filming will take place between Oct. 28 and Dec. 17. In 2004, Berry suffered a minor injury while filming **Catwoman** in Vancouver when she hit her head on a piece of equipment. She was treated at St. Paul's Hospital and released hours later.

A horror flick titled **The Hole** begins filming in Vancouver Monday. According to imdb.com, the movie is about a pair of brothers who stumble upon "a mysterious hole in their basement that leads to the darkest corridors of their fears and nightmares." The project will be directed by **Joe Dante**, whose resumé comprises a lengthy list of sci-fi and horror films, and though little has been revealed about casting, **Robert Picardo** (**Star Trek Voyager**) has said that he will be involved.

Halle Berry GETTY IMAGES

Ryan Reynolds GETTY IMAGES

In a column for the Huffington Post, **Ryan Reynolds** recently wrote his motivation to run in the New York City Marathon on Nov. 2. The Vancouver-born actor — who married **Scarlett Johansson** a couple of weeks ago at B.C.'s Clayoquot Wilderness Resort — said that while he is terrified by the idea of bleeding nipples and jogging anywhere from 11 to 23 miles a day to train, he was inspired by his father, **Jim Reynolds**, who died of Parkinson's Disease, and Edmonton-born actor **Michael J. Fox**, who is currently battling it. "Witnessing my Dad suffer over the years galvanized my need to step up," he wrote. Reynolds is fundraising through teamfox.org and is just a few thousand away from his goal of $50,000.

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter.

Bill Gates tops responsibility poll

Gates

PEOPLE Bill Gates topped the business category and Oprah Winfrey and Angelina Jolie scored high marks but many Americans said they had difficulty naming a responsible leader or celebrity, a poll suggests.

Most of the 1,001 questioned said they valued responsibility, but they didn't see enough of it in other people. "The index shows that people want more responsibility in their lives, but they're not always certain how to achieve that goal," said Kathy McManus, of Liberty Mutual Group, a global insurance company that conducted the poll, Reuters reports.

Garth thrilled Priestley directing

Garth

90210 Jennie Garth is thrilled her original Beverly Hills, 90210 co-star Jason Priestley will be directing an upcoming episode of the spinoff 90210, usmagazine.com reports. "I'm happy that he's there. Jason directed a couple of episodes of the original show, and he was great," she told Usmagazine.com. "He's a hoot, so it'll be fun!"

Will Luke Perry be returning? "I don't know if that's going to happen, but I would love it."

Chesney talks Zellweger split

MUSIC On his new album Lucky Old Sun, Kenny Chesney writes about the end of his four-month marriage to actress Renee Zellweger, usmagazine.com reports. He tells Newsweek recovering from the split was "was horrible. It took a while. Years. It's been since 2005.

"I was probably as emotionally and mentally exhausted as I'd ever been," he goes on. "And that was due to a lot of things — having the foot on the gas pedal constantly, and my breakup with Renee Zellweger." METRO NEWS SERVICES

France honours Hopper

Actor Dennis Hopper has been made a commander in the French Legion of Honour in a Paris ceremony Monday. The Legion of Honour, established in 1802, is France's highest decoration. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Singer/songwriter Alicia Keys.

Keys leads music award nominees

R&B singer Alicia Keys picked up five nominations for the American Music Awards, while rock bands Coldplay and the Eagles scored four each, organizers said yesterday.

All three will compete for artist of the year, alongside rapper Lil Wayne and R&B star Chris Brown, who have three nominations each.

The 36th annual American Music Awards will be held at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on Nov. 23, with comedian Jimmy Kimmel returning as host. ABC will broadcast in the United States.

Keys was recognized for her album, As I Am, which opened at No. 1 on the U.S. pop chart last November. It was cited for favourite album in the pop/rock and soul/R&B categories, and she was nominated for favourite artist in both those categories.

Coldplay and the Eagles will also go head-to-head for both favourite artist and favourite album in the pop/rock category. Additionally, Coldplay was cited for favourite alternative artist, and the Eagles for favourite adult contemporary artist. **REUTERS**

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Cheadle gains role in Iron Man 2

CASTING In a surprise move, Don Cheadle will replace Terrence Howard as Robert Downey Jr.'s best friend in Iron Man 2, the sequel to the superhero saga.

Don Cheadle

In the Marvel Studios summer smash, Howard played Jim Rhodes, Tony Stark/Iron Man's future armor-clad hero War Machine.

Marvel had no comment, but sources close to the deal said negotiations with Howard fell through over financial differences, among other reasons.

Iron Man 2 is scheduled for release on May 7, 2010.

Fox heads to Wall Street again

SEQUEL With all eyes on the world's see-sawing stock markets, Fox is bullish on a sequel to Wall Street.

The new film is titled Money Never Sleeps. Michael Douglas, who won an Oscar for his role in the 1987 original as corporate raider Gordon Gekko, is interested in reprising the character, but will see how Allan Loeb's script turns out before committing. The storyline is being kept under wraps.

Ed Pressman, who produced the original, is producing the sequel.

Eagle Eye bumps Mamma Mia!

MOVIES Eagle Eye has bumped longtime champion Mamma Mia! from the top spot at the weekend box office overseas.

The thriller took in $10.7 million US from 36 territories, 11 of them new. It opened at No. 1 in South Korea with $3.3 million, but only at No. 5 in Germany with $1.1 million.

Mamma Mia! pulled in $8.3 million from 45 markets to lift its foreign gross to $390.7 million. **REUTERS**

Pam criticizes model

Pamela Anderson, right, has blasted model Katie Price for her parenting skills. "She shows off her kids all the time in TV shows — that's beyond low," Anderson reportedly told New! Magazine. THE DAILY MIRROR

NBC keeps riding with Knight

TELEVISION NBC has ordered four additional scripts for Knight Rider, a positive sign for the freshman drama, which has had a sluggish ratings start.

This is the second new scripted series after CBS' promising crime drama The Mentalist to receive an additional script pickup, often a precursor to a full-season order. Two freshman series, Fox's Fringe and the CW's 90210, have been picked up for a full season.

In its most recent airing Wednesday, Knight Rider attracted 6.9 million viewers, down from 7.8 million the week before.

Bjork to Yorke, or not to Yorke?

MUSIC Icelandic vocalist Bjork will release a new single featuring backing vocals from Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke on Oct. 20, according to her camp.

Bjork

The only problem: according to Radiohead's management, Yorke hasn't recorded anything new with Bjork, although the possibility remains that his contribution to the single, Nattura, is a sample or was taped at some point in the past.

Bjork and Yorke previously sang together on I've Seen It All, from the 2000 film Dancer in the Dark, in which Bjork starred.

Fall Out Boy album delayed

MUSIC Fall Out Boy has delayed the release of its new album by six weeks to Dec. 16, citing concerns over the planned election day tie-in for Folie a Deux.

"Six months ago we thought it would be a fun idea to release our album on election day but this is not the election to be cute," the band said in a statement.

The first single from the album, I Don't Care, has sold 167,000 downloads in four weeks of U.S. release, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

REUTERS

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Networks spin the PVR effect

NEVER TOO LATE: The networks are sighing in relief and looking gratefully at the kids and their newfangled technology this week, now that ratings figures for delayed viewing — shows watched on PVRs after they've had their broadcast premiere, in other words — are finally in.

According to a New York Times story from Monday, it took Nielsen three weeks to get an accurate read on delayed viewing numbers, and all in all, the numbers are good, so what's to complain about, right?

What the new technology has done, among other things, is allow the networks to defy simple laws of nature in their quest for viewers, such as the one that says no one can be in two places at the same time. When two big shows face off against each other on the same night — like Grey's Anatomy on ABC and The Office on NBC, for instance — no one has to choose if they can record one, or both, and enjoy them later. Both shows were big beneficiaries of PVR viewing, according to Nielsen, with Grey's Anatomy picking up 4.2 million viewers, and The Office picking up 2.5 million extra pairs of eyes.

House also gets a boost, with 3.7 million viewers watching at their convenience, and Heroes, which has had very soft ratings since its season debut, picked up 42 per cent new viewers in the 18-49 demographic, and a total of 2.4 million new viewers on playback, almost making up for its supposedly lost viewers — no surprise for a show that skews youthfully, and therefore more technologically literate.

Hammering that little sociocultural point home, another geeky, youthful show — Fox's Fringe — also did well in delayed viewing, as did 90210 and How I Met Your Mother. Even more interesting was that Sunday Night Football only picked up a scant 10,000 viewers in delayed viewing, and Dancing With The Stars picked up a mere 15 per cent of younger viewers. These numbers are proof that there are now two types of primetime program: "event" shows that you need to catch live to have something to talk/blog/Facebook/ twitter about, and shows you take in at your leisure, like a rented movie, without caring too much about having plot points spoiled ahead of time. The networks are going to have to figure out which one they're in the business of selling sooner or later, and their choice is going to have a bigger effect on TV than the advent of colour, perhaps even the introduction of cable. They'll have to figure out a new way to make money off of advertisers, though, since the conventional wisdom among ad buyers is that delayed viewing means skipped commercials — the president of research at NBC even went so far as to call PVRs "the ultimate frenemy."

It's a word that's probably going to join "get a horse" in the annals of executive cluelessness one day.

IntelleVision
Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Shows such as The Office, which airs opposite another hit like Grey's Anatomy, are big beneficiaries of the advent of the PVR.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 10/15/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	Knight Rider (CC)		The Biggest Loser (CC)				News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Canada Top 18. (N) (CC)				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	The Practice "Betrayal" (CC)		Third Watch (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (CC)		NCIS "Heartland" (N) (CC)		House "Birthmarks" (N) (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Robson Arms	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Pushing Daisies "Bad Habits"		To Be Announced		News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Secret Life of American Teen		Biography "Hugh Laurie"		Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "The Jet Set" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	(6:00) Presidential Debate		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	KIRO News	Entertainment	CSI: Miami (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	(6:00) Presidential Debate		Debate		Knight Rider (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)		Gok's Fashion Fix (N)		Style by Jury
	288	380	21 ABC	Pres. Debate	Analysis	Problem Solvers Town Hall		Pushing Daisies "Bad Habits"		Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Big Girls Don't Cry... They Get Even ★★ (1992) Hillary Wolf.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	(6:00) Presidential Debate		Secrets of the Dead		Murder House (CC)		Where We Stand		Pioneers-Aviat
	290	382	28 FOX	MLB Baseball: NLCS		Cops (CC)	King of Hill	King of Hill	Family Guy	News (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	(6:00) Presidential Debate		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Secrets of the Dead	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "The Jet Set" (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Kitchen Nightmares		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	29 NW	(6:00) Presidential Debate		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Presidential Debate (Live) (CC)		
	500	500	43 CNN	Pres. Debate	Debate Night in America Debate discussion.			Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Soccer: Canada vs. Mexico		MLB Baseball: NLCS		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Connected		Soccer
	400	400	30 TSN	NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Anaheim Ducks. (Live) (CC)					SportsCentre	Triathlon: Ironman		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up (CC)	Adventures	Word Travels
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Out	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol		Gol TV News		Art of Football	Art of Football	Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Imp.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic	Chicken	Lucy Devil
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Meerkat	Undersea	Chinese School (CC)		Handel's Water Music (CC)		Sorceress: Kiri Te Kanawa		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	MTV's Top Pop Group		disBand	Technical Diff.	Punk'd (CC)	Springbreak.08 (CC)		Born to Be	Spotlight
	600	564	26 H&G	Million Dollar Listing (CC)		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Mansions	The Stagers	Property	Unsellable	$1M Listing
	615	520	61 A&E	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Parking Wars
	628	584	62 SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)		The Ultimate Fighter		CSI: NY "Personal Foul"		Star Trek: Voyager "Parallax"		Deep Space 9
	521	560	64 TLC	Painted Babies at 17 (CC)		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Painted Babies at 17 (CC)		Jon & Kate
	616	522	69 SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County (CC)		Billable Hours	G-Spot (CC)	The Riches (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	70 BVO	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		Innocence ★★★ (2000) Julia Blake.		
	601	562	71 SLC	Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out "Sky-Lab 2.0"		Real Housewives of NYC		Trading Sp
	520	505	72 DIS	Mayday Air Canada plane.		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Cash Cab	Factory Made	Mayday
	522	506	74 HIS	NCIS "My Other Left Foot"		Cities of the Underworld		The Real Amityville Horror		NCIS "My Other Left Foot"		Crime Stories
	627	528	75 SPC	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1 "Camelot"		Lost "Exodus" (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	97 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Cool Runnings ★★★ (1993) Leon, Doug E. Doug. (CC)			
	619	525	98 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Reality	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
	603	561	99 FN	Dinner	Dinner	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge (CC)		Iron Chef America		Dinner
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Inc.	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	The Diving Bell and the Butterfly ★★★★ (2007) (CC)				True Blood "Cold Ground"		Dexter (CC)		The Fountain
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	Man and Wife	Exiled (CC)	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Enigma "Masonic Legends"		Hope Island (CC)		Summer Wine	No Place Like	Darling Buds of May (CC)		Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics' corner

Presidential Debate

Foreign policy is the subject du jour as Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama reunite for their third debate. Bob Schieffer, CBS News' chief Washington correspondent and moderator of "Face the Nation," moderates the event, held at Hofstra University on New York's Long Island. 6 PM on CBS ABC NBC NW

Pushing Daisies

In this new episode, Chuck, Emerson and Ned (Anna Friel, Chi McBride, Lee Pace) go under cover as a nun and two priests and pass themselves off as investigators from the Vatican to help Olive (Kristin Chenoweth) prove that her best pal at the convent didn't kill herself but was actually murdered in "Bad Habits." Apparently they die hard. 9 PM on ABC

Babies named
Singer Lisa Marie Presley and her husband Michael Lockwood have picked out names for their newborn twin girls: Finley and Harper. The couple's first children together were born Oct. 7. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Lohan's leggings honour Monroe

FASHION Lindsay Lohan is getting a leg up on fashion, having launched her own line of leggings yesterday, People.com reports.

The actress just posted on her MySpace page that the newest collection 6126 was to hit Henri Bendel's N.Y.C. store yesterday.

"I'm thrilled to announce that my new fashion collection, 6126 is finally ready for launch!!" she says. "I love to wear leggings, so it should come as no surprise that my first venture into the world of fashion design is with leggings!" She goes on to explain the brand's cryptic name, saying, "I named the collection after Marilyn Monroe's birth date, because to me she represents timeless, confident glam — and that is the voice of this brand."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Beckham staffers arrested for alleged theft

PEOPLE Two staff members working for Victoria and David Beckham have been arrested in England on suspicion of theft, imdb.com reports.

The housekeepers, who work at the celebrity couple's mansion in England, dubbed Beckingham Palace by the British media, were taken into police custody on Monday.

According to tabloid reports in the U.K., the former Spice Girl's parents, who run the Beckhams' estate in Hertfordshire, became suspicious of their staff after personal items from the Beckhams' home turned up on auctioning website EBay.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Potter star spotted touring Harvard

EDUCATION Harry Potter star Emma Watson is taking her U.S. college plans to the highest level by touring one of the America's most prestigious universities, imdb.com reports.

The young actress was spotted visiting the campus of Harvard University in Massachusetts last week for an open day.

Watson hinted about her plans to study abroad in an interview earlier this year.

"I've applied to a few universities for next year, including several American ones," she said. "If I do go there (America), I will do a liberal arts degree, but if I stay in the U.K. I'll do English literature."

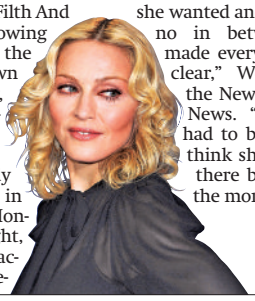
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Madonna's impressive ethic

PEOPLE Pop superstar-turned-movie director Madonna impressed the cast on the set of her filmmaking debut Filth And Wisdom by showing up on set at the crack of dawn every day, imdb.com reports.

Madonna, whose comedy premiered in New York on Monday night, stunned lead actress Holly Weston by showing how dedicated she was to the project.

"She knew exactly what she wanted and there was no in between. She made everything very clear," Weston tells the New York Daily News. "Everything had to be perfect. I think she was even there before us in the morning."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sopranos star takes on fashion

PEOPLE Jamie-Lynn Sigler is joining the ranks of other celebrity designers and trying her hand at a jewelry line, People.com reports.

The former Sopranos star and her friend Holly Freeman are teaming up to create a custom line of bangles and pendant necklaces ready for order at the beginning of the year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

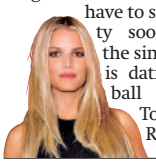
celebrity briefs

Aniston, Mayer seen smooching

ROMANCE Actress Jennifer Aniston and singer John Mayer were spotted reportedly kissing in Los Angeles on Monday, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The pair, who split last month, reportedly arrived at the airport and were seen in a series of steamy clinches.

Simpson wants six children

FAMILY Jessica Simpson has revealed she wants six children, femalefirst.co.uk reports. "I'd love six kids running around, but I guess I'll have to start pretty soon," said the singer, who is dating football player Tony Romo.



Slater eager for Heathers sequel

PEOPLE Actor Christian Slater is reportedly eager to return to the big screen alongside Winona Ryder in a sequel to their hit film Heathers, imdb.com reports. "Yeah, sometimes I see Winona (Ryder) and she's like, 'Are you ready to do Heathers 2?' And I'm like, 'Sure!' I would do it in a heartbeat. I would totally love to do that character again, J.D.," Slater tells AOL Television.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

FameThrower

Joe O'Neill

Joe's take on celebrities

Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer are officially the principals of the According to Jim of celebrity relationships. You didn't pay any attention to it the first time it was on, and now for some unfathomable reason, it's in reruns. That's right, the woman who could dig potatoes with her chin and the guy who makes me wish Stevie Ray Vaughan had a better helicopter pilot are 'reheating the cabbage, as the Italians say.

Or so they would have you believe. Isn't it funny that every time St. Angelina, Our Lady of Perpetual Hype, is on the cover of a magazine for doing something extraordinary like providing sustenance for her children, Brad Pitt's ex gets herself in the news either for declaring that she doesn't need anybody, or for snogging with the Jimi Hendrix of the Ritalin generation?

The details of the latest press release seem to have been written by Jen herself. Perhaps she is contemplating writing romance novels with herself as the heroine. These would be a great addition to the children's book she penned in the '90s, The Prettiest Friend, and her signature perfume, Cougar, which doubles as a pregnancy test.

What's the name of that film Aniston is about to start promoting? Oh, yeah, He's Just Not That Into You. Coincidence, surely.

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Friday
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Rain
13° / 7°

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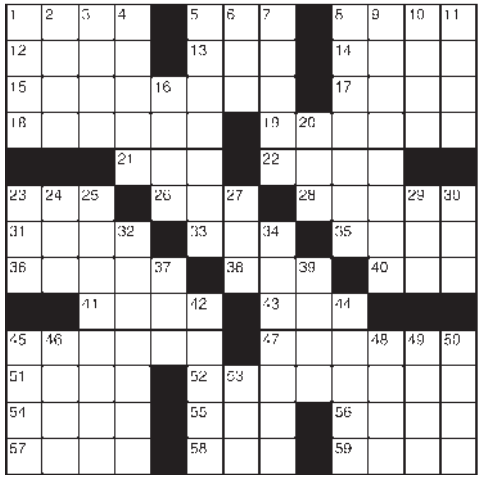

Crossword across

1 "Cheers" order
5 Cleo's slayer
8 Look lecherously
12 Needle case
13 Prohibit
14 Incursion
15 Grotesque carving
17 Raised
18 Sailing vessels
19 Like wet roads
21 Sleep phenom
22 Location
23 Gasoline stat
26 Nev. neighbor
28 Jeans material
31 Support group?
33 Romanian money
35 FDR is on it
36 Heart line?
38 Switch settings
40 Likely
41 Karma
43 Collection
45 Accommodated
47 Squat
51 Duel tool
52 Chickpea
54 Gangster's gal pal
55 Time of your life?
56 Celebrity
57 Race place
58 Tier
59 Rent

Crossword down

1 Pleads
2 And others (Lat.)
3 Franc replacement
4 Severity
5 Immeasurably deep
6 "Erie Canal" mule
7 Iron
8 Traveled around the world?
9 Corsage flower
10 Told tales
11 Whirlpool
16 Oil cartel
20 Tease
23 Biz deg.
24 Yes voter
25 Jon Arbuckle's cat
27 Zodiac sign
29 Demonic tyke
30 Bumped into
32 Grand
34 Remove a lightbulb
37 Packed away
39 Belgrade dweller
42 Candice's dad
44 Raise a glass to
45 Half (Pref.)
46 "Once — a time ..."
48 "Do — others ..."
49 Despot
50 Gridlock noisemaker
53 In olden days

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	5		4					
3	7					8		1
		2		1				7
6		9		5	4			
	3						5	
			8	3		7		9
2				8		1		
1		6					9	2
					1		7	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

5	9	3	6	8	2	4	7	1
7	1	6	3	4	5	2	8	9
4	2	8	7	1	9	3	5	6
3	5	7	1	6	8	9	4	2
9	6	2	4	5	7	1	3	8
8	4	1	2	9	3	7	6	5
6	7	4	8	2	1	5	9	3
1	3	5	9	7	6	8	2	4
2	8	9	5	3	4	6	1	7

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Grilled swordfish steaks with tomato and pepper salsa

INGREDIENTS:
4 swordfish or other fish steaks, about 5 ¼ oz (150 g) each
4 tbsp (60 mL) extra virgin olive oil
Juice of 1 small orange
1 garlic clove, crushed
Pepper to taste
1 orange, cut into wedges, to garnish

TOMATO AND PEPPER SALSA:
7 oz (200 g) Italian tomatoes, diced
1/2 red pepper, seeded and diced
1/2 red onion, finely chopped
Juice of 1 small orange
½ oz (15 g) fresh basil, chopped
1 tbsp (15 mL) balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon caster (superfine) sugar
Pepper to taste

METHOD:
1. Place fish steaks in a shallow non-metallic dish. Mix together olive oil, orange juice, garlic and pepper to season, and spoon over the fish steaks.
2. For salsa, combine tomatoes, red pepper, onion, orange juice, basil, balsamic vinegar and sugar, and season with pepper. Spoon into serving bowl.
3. Heat a lightly oiled, ridged cast-iron grill pan or a heavy-based frying pan over a high heat. Place the fish steaks in the grill pan or in the frying pan and cook for 2–3 minutes per side, basting from time to time with oil mixture, until fish flakes easily.
4. Place fish steaks on individual warm serving plates and grind over some additional black pepper. Garnish fish with wedges of orange and serve with salsa.

SERVES 4

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Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Rely on your wits when someone slows progress. Change anything that interferes with sincerity. Being dignified wins, when someone is shouting.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Thoughtless actions will cause headaches. A brave soul gives up in frustration. Don't argue about money with a fool.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You'll get an unexpected offer from a long-lost friend. Distinguish yourself by contacting an elder. A woman is more helpful than a bad boy.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Secret messages are the solution to a mix-up. Don't take chances to end a bothersome situation. A desperado tempts someone with bad taste.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Keep away from a scared brunette. A friend is fired up about having a good time. Don't let pride provoke a misunderstanding.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Someone who admires you will speak up. A worker is incompetent. Speculation will make you flustered.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be witty in a scintillating situation. Suspicion falls on a fool and his money. Impressive moves are made by a mature woman.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A foolish schemer is caught at last. Mischief-makers will run rampant. A friendly woman is accused of having a secret agenda.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Try to understand why you flipped your lid. An agreement in principle comes easily. Make up your mind without interference.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Have pity on the bewildered. A formidable friend modifies unrealistic expectations. A warrior wants to find the truth.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Avoid making whimsical remarks. A wicked scheme will cause laughter. Happiness grows when difficulties cause unexpected giggles.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
People may not be ready for a drastic change. Searching reveals a good alternative to gloom. Visit with a musical friend.

This day in history

OCT. 15, 1863: American Civil War: The CSS H. L. Hunley, the first submarine to sink a ship, sinks during a test, killing its inventor, Horace L. Hunley.
OCT. 15, 1951: Television sitcom I Love Lucy premieres.
OCT. 15, 1951: Mexican chemist Luis E. Miramontes synthesized the first oral contraceptive.
OCT. 15, 1981: Professional cheerleader Krazy George Henderson leads what is thought to be the first audience wave in Oakland, California.
OCT. 15, 1989: Wayne Gretzky becomes the all-time leading points scorer in the NHL.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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